



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Mike Braun  
Governor

Clint Woods  
Commissioner

To: Katherine Noel  
Chair, Indiana State Ethics Commission

William Deane  
Ethics Director, Office of the Indiana Inspector General

From: James French  
Ethics Officer, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Date: April 15, 2026

Re: Waiver of 42 IAC 1-15-1

**FILED**

**APR 15 2026**

INDIANA STATE  
ETHICS COMMISSION

In accordance with 42 IAC 1-5-1(c), as the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) Ethics Officer, I am filing this waiver of the application of the Gift Rule based on the following facts.

Mary Armacost is an employee of the State, working in IDEM's Office of Water Quality (OWQ) as a Pretreatment Coordinator. IDEM OWQ handles all regulatory matters pertaining to wastewater and drinking water in the state of Indiana.

Armacost has been gifted free registration by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to attend the Indiana AWWA Conference 2026 (the Conference), which occurred March 23-26, 2026. The address for the AWWA is PO Box 127 Brownsburg, IN 46112. The Conference offers training and networking opportunities for those in the IDEM-regulated wastewater and drinking water communities.

Specifically, Armacost received free registration valued at approximately \$240.

Though IDEM does not assert that it has a business relationship with the AWWA, IDEM is nevertheless filing this waiver out of an abundance of caution to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

This waiver of the Gift Rule is consistent with the public interest because it allows IDEM staff to meet face-to-face with the regulated community in a shared learning environment that is less formal than typical interactions would allow. By attending Armacost will be able to answer questions outside of an audit, which encourages open and honest communication. The Conference would also present an educational opportunity for Armacost, who must stay up to date on the latest in rules and regulations pertaining to wastewater and drinking water.

James French  
Ethics Officer  
Indiana Department of Environmental Management