



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • Fax (317) 233-6647 • www.idem.IN.gov

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: July 10, 2026

Re: Waiver of 42 IAC 1-15-1

FILED

JUL 10 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 Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) to attend the 2026 IWEA Industrial Pretreatment Roundtable (Roundtable), which occurred June 11, 2026. The address for the IWEA is 6510 Telecom Dr, Ste 200, Indianapolis, IN 46278. The Roundtable is an industry education event for pretreatment experts in the state of Indiana.

Specifically, Armacost received free registration valued at approximately \$50.

Though IDEM does not assert that it has a business relationship with the IWEA, 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 Roundtable 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