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Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Reference: (Senate Bill 254) **In favor**

Honorable Committee Members,

I am Reed Johnson, Area Sales Manager for Orenco Systems Inc. We are a best available technology (BAT) manufacturer with hundreds of systems installed in the State of Maryland. I am a proud board member of the Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professional Association (MOWPA). As a manufacturer, we understand the importance of education, experience, and accountability. This bill provides for two essential industry needs, training, and accountability. As a concerned board member of MOWPA, I offer full support in the passage of SB254. As a Maryland (MDE) licensed operator of on-site systems, I offer my full support for SB254.

In our industry, our first fiduciary obligation is to the environment. Our other fiduciary duty is to the residences of Maryland and our Nation. Oddly enough, by making the environment first, we are protecting the second. This bill provides the requirements to inspect (BAT) systems correctly, thereby protecting the new homeowner. This bill offers minimal education requirements for inspections to protect the environment from noncompliance with local and state regulatory regulations.

I am a board member of the Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA) board. Virginia house bill 1266 is currently in committee. This bill addresses the same issues as in Maryland. As an industry, we recognize the need for accountability. Many inspectors have already acknowledged the need for education by attending classes voluntarily. A home inspector does not have the required knowledge to inspect BAT's or on-site sewage disposal without the necessary training we are asking you make mandentory.

This bill repeals the current law requirements related to the certification of those engaged in the business of property transfer inspections for on-site sewage disposal systems (commonly referred to as septic systems) and instead requires that by May 1, 2021, any person (unless exempted) who engages in the business of inspecting a septic system must obtain a septic inspection license issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Reference Virginia house bill 1266: <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+ful+HB1266>

Best regards,



Area Sales Manager, Orenco Systems Inc.
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Vowra board member
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