



THE TOWN OF TRAPPE

4011 POWELL AVENUE
P.O. BOX 162
TRAPPE, MARYLAND 21673-0162

410-443-0087
Fax: 410-443-0562
clerk@trappemd.net

Nicholas Newnam, President
410-443-0087
RD Diefenderfer, Vice President
410-443-0087
Walter Chase, Sr
410-443-0087
Norm Fegel
410-443-0087
Tonya Pritchett
410-443-0087

February 5, 2020

Senator Paul Pinsky
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of Senate Bill 495 – Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities

Dear Senator Pinsky:

The Town of Trappe is writing in support of SB 495 which will expand the authorized use of Bay Restoration Funds (BRF) to include certain costs associated with the connection of a property using an on-site sewage disposal system to an existing municipal wastewater facility that has signed a funding agreement with the Department of the Environment and is under construction to achieve Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) or Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) level treatment.

Under current law, the BRF law does not allow BRF funds to be used to connect an on-site sewage disposal system property to a municipal facility unless the facility is already treating at ENR or BNR levels. This proposed legislation will allow properties with failing septic systems to be able to connect to a municipal facility that is in the process of upgrading to an ENR or BNR facility but have not met the ENR and BNR levels yet.

The Town of Trappe currently has properties in Town limits that are being served by on-site sewage disposal systems that either have already failed or are in the process of failing. These residents reached out to the Town in hopes that the sewer main could be extended to their properties so they could connect to Town's facility and decommission their systems. After designing the project and submitting a construction permit application we were unfortunately told by the Department of the Environment that BRF funds would not be available for these residents because Trappe is not an ENR or BNR facility. The Town of Trappe is in the process of upgrading to an ENR facility and are currently awaiting the completion of a Professional Engineering Report (PER) by George, Miles and Buhr. The Town of Trappe has also submitted a grant application to the Department of the Environment on January 30, 2020 in hopes of receiving grant funding for the ENR upgrade.

SB 495 would allow the affected residents to use BRF funds to connect to the Town's facility as soon as a funding agreement is signed and construction has begun instead of having to wait a few years for construction to be complete and the facility to be operating at ENR or BNR levels. This will not only improve the environment by decommissioning the failing septic systems in a shorter time

frame but it will also save the Town and citizens thousands of dollars when the connections are made. For all these reasons, the Town of Trappe supports SP 495 and respectfully requests a favorable report on the bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Newnam', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicholas Newnam
Council President