

February 24, 2020

Re: HB 836 - Sewage Treatment Plants - Effluent Discharges - Impacts on Midge Populations

Hon. Chair Kumar Barve
6 Bladen Street, House Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Chair,

HB 836 requires the Department of the Environment to monitor discharges from sewage treatment plants, evaluate impacts on midge populations in the surrounding area and report their findings to the General Assembly.

Midges are tiny flies that feed aquatically. With a life span of two days, their sole purpose is to reproduce. To do this, they gather in huge swarms of millions of flies that are a terror to any developed area. They fly in your eyes, mouth and ears. Normal respiration will cause you to breathe them in. You won't be able to step outside. Your property, from your grass to your roof, will be coated in dead bugs.

The correlation between sewage treatment plants, discharge, algae growth and midge infestation is known. However, the impact from area-to-area not completely understood. HB 836 puts in place a simple reporting process so that the public and policy makers can be more informed and make data-informed decisions.

Thank you for the hearing for House Bill 836. I am happy to take questions and I ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Delegate Robin Grammer