



JESSICA FITZWATER
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

SB 726 – Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Decommission of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon

DATE: February 20, 2024
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
POSITION: Support
FROM: Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

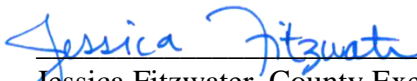
As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 726 a FAVORABLE report.

This bill amends the authorized uses of the Bay Restoration Fund to include costs related to decommissioning wastewater treatment lagoons. In particular, this bill will allow for funds from the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) to be awarded to cover 100% of eligible project costs relating to planning, design, construction, and upgrade of a publicly owned wastewater facility.

In Frederick County, Middletown currently operates their wastewater facility with a lagoon. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has instructed the Town Administrator to submit a design and construction application, as well as a sub-application of the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program. Following a cost analysis with the current BRF funding structure, the BRF would only cover 70-75% of Middletown's decommissioning project. Under the current framework, Middletown would be unable to afford funding the remainder of the decommissioning project.

The expansion of authorized uses of BRF funding would allow Middletown to comply with state environmental regulations and decommission the lagoon in their wastewater facility. As the legislative session moves forward, measures such as these are important to ensure continued utility services for residents and fiscal stability for our local governments.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 726. On behalf of County Executive Fitzwater and the residents of Middletown and Frederick County, I urge a FAVORABLE report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD