

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

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March 5, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chairman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 1161, “Dorchester County – Sanitary Commission – Transfer of Powers to County Council”

Dear Chairman Korman:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 1161 entitled, “Dorchester County – Sanitary Commission – Transfer of Powers to County Council” for purposes of authorizing the Dorchester County Council to, by public local law, abolish the Dorchester County Sanitary Commission, establish a department of public facilities and services, and provide for the department’s abilities and functions, subject to certain requirements; transferring certain responsibilities from the Dorchester County Sanitary Commission to the Dorchester County Council; and generally relating to the dissolution of the Dorchester County Sanitary Commission.

With the current economy, the Commission has found it challenging to comply with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requirements and regulations for the management of its water and sewerage operations. Specific environmental and safety concerns regarding unsatisfactory Bermed Infiltration Ponds throughout the County have created an urgency to repair and update existing infrastructure to provide adequate service, management and maintenance to existing shared-facilities and users. After several discussions between the Commission, County and MDE, these groups find it necessary for the County to establish a department responsible for water and sewerage functions, thus abolishing the District, for the betterment of the public’s general health and wellbeing. The County agrees to assume all real property and tangible assets owned and used by the Sanitary Commission for its water and sewerage operations. Respectfully, we ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700.

Sincerely,
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

glp/ib

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Thomas S. Hutchinson, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate