



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 12, 2024

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 1478 – Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Decommission of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 1478. This measure authorizes the Bay Restoration Fund wastewater account to be used to completely cover the cost of decommissioning a wastewater treatment lagoon located in a flood plain and won't be used with a new wastewater treatment system, and the purchase and installation of pump stations to redirect wastewater out of the floodplain into another treatment facility.

Decommissioning a wastewater treatment lagoon in a floodplain can help mitigate environmental risks, protect public health, ensure regulatory compliance, and promote more sustainable land use practices in flood-prone areas. While there may be initial costs involved in decommissioning, the long-term savings from avoiding maintenance and potential flood damage can outweigh these expenses. However, local governments have limited opportunities to generate revenue, and many cannot afford the initial costs. Authorizing the BRF in this manner will provide significant financial support, not only to the Town of Middletown which stands to save \$10 million, but to all municipalities similarly situated.

For these reasons, MML respectfully requests that this committee provide House Bill 1478 with a favorable report.

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