



House Bill 1512

Bay Restoration Fund - Use of Funds - Municipal Wastewater Facilities - Sunset Repeal

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Date: March 12, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1512. This bill removes the sunset on the 2020 authorization to use the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) for 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 or biological nutrient removal level treatment.

Several counties have wastewater facilities that are in the process of upgrading but do not have the funds to complete the project due to lack of connections. HB 1512 would provide needed support for connections to facilities intending to upgrade. The result is a preferable one for environmental outcomes, as in virtually all cases a connection to upgraded municipal facilities yields better pollution reductions than upgraded on-site septic systems.

This bill would continue the important work started in 2020 of ensuring more buildings are serviced by environmentally friendly sewer systems, instead of septic systems. For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 1512 a **FAVORABLE** report.