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**In favor of HB 146 with Amendments.**

Environment and Transportation Committee

Environment- On-Site Wastewater Systems- Requirements for Inspection and Pumping Services

My name is Gene von Gunten. I am retired after 38 years as a regulator for the On-Site systems sections at the Frederick County Health Department and the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services. In 1996, I challenged State Delegate Brian Frosh to sponsor legislation to require private septic system inspectors to be trained and registered with the State of Maryland (MDE). The Frosh legislation was opposed by many parties both within and outside the government; but the net result was the first standardization of private septic inspectors and their work. Much later I was involved with the efforts to ratchet up these requirements. This brought these inspections into the daylight.

**STATEMENT**

I am in **support of HB 146**, with the following amendment.

The Bill is good because on-site systems are inspected when first installed; and then allowed to operate unchecked until they fail. No one should purchase or occupy a dwelling unless/until the on-site system is inspected by a competent person.

My suggested amendment would be to “**couple**” the inspection with the pump out and make the pump out mandatory. If the pump out is done before the inspector arrives, the inspection quality will be compromised. Watching the pump out is critical to helping the inspector judge the operation of the on-site system. The industry can and will handle the logistics to make this happen. No real estate transaction will fail as a result.

**I ask for a favorable report for HB 146- with this amendment.**