

**Testimony in Support of HB146  
On–Site Wastewater Systems – Requirements for Inspection and Pumping Services and  
Extension of Sunset and Implementation Dates**

**House Environment and Transportation Committee HEARING 2/4/2026  
Submitted on Monday 2/2/2026**

To Chair Korman and Committee Members,

**My name is Bob Zillig. I live in Grasonville, MD, on the Chester river and I urge a favorable report on HB146.**

I am passionate about this bill because I know the damage a leaking septic system can do to our river systems. My parents built our family home on the Chester River in 1967 and initially relied upon a septic system. The system's drainage tile was a mere 50 feet away from the river shoreline. I remember as a child asking my Dad why the grass always grew so thick and heavy in a stripe in our yard. He was a Sanitary Engineer and explained that the "green stripe" was the nitrogen leaching from our septic drainage system. We were fortunate in that our county was able to link our community to the public sewage treatment plant in 1992 insuring our home's waste was environmentally processed. Understandably, many existing homes in our county still must rely upon septic systems. SB165 addresses the environmental risk of these potentially leaking systems by requiring an inspection upon real estate transfer.

SB165/HB146 is designed to:

- Protect public health and the environment by ensuring septic systems are properly maintained, inspected, and monitored.
- Reduce nitrate, phosphate, and bacteria contamination in both well water and local rivers.
- Increase state tools to identify and remediate undiagnosed failing septic systems throughout Maryland.

This is a fair ask given that it protects the potential buyer and our Maryland waterways. It is not unreasonable to require an inspection of a septic system upon title transfer. Many buyers' home inspections already request this inspection to be undertaken. A leaking septic system is the last thing a new buyer wants to be surprised with after purchase. Please support this reasonable bill to improve the **health of our community and our rivers.**

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee giving HB146 a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,

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