

with nutrient removal technology, it is estimated that 42 million pounds of nitrogen could be removed annually.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Commission, in order to fulfill the Chesapeake 2000 commitments relating to water quality, Maryland will need to spend an estimated \$3.9 billion. This estimate is not limited to costs to upgrade wastewater treatment plants; it also includes costs for nutrient and sediment reductions from agricultural lands, septic systems, and new and retrofitted stormwater measures. Improvements at wastewater treatment plants represent more than one-third of the total financial burden, however.

In an effort to facilitate the upgrade of these sewage treatment plants, both in Maryland and watershed-wide, U.S. Senators Sarbanes and Mikulski, along with Senators Warner and Allen from Virginia and Senators Specter and Santorum from Pennsylvania, introduced federal legislation during the 107th Congress to provide 50:50 grants to approximately 300 wastewater treatment plants to install nitrogen reduction technology. The legislation would have provided \$132 million annually for five years to the six states in the Bay watershed. Identical legislation was introduced in the House. Hearings were held on the Senate bill, but no further action was taken. The federal legislation is expected to be reintroduced during the 108th Congress.

There is a resolution pending before the Virginia legislature that urges the U.S. Congress to adopt legislation during the 108th Congress in support of nitrogen removal technology. Both the Virginia House and Senate have reported the resolution favorably out of committee. A complementary resolution has been prepared for introduction in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SJ 1 (Senator Hollinger, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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