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COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2110, Elkton, MD 21921

February 12, 2020

The Hon. Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 495 Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities
Letter of Support

Dear Senator Pinsky:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports SB 495 Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities, which was scheduled for hearing on February 12, 2020.

This legislation expands the use of Bay Restoration Funds to include costs of connection of property using an on-site sewage disposal system to an existing municipal wastewater facility that has a signed agreement with the Department of Environment, with a 2024 sunset date.

This legislation could benefit Cecil County residents who live in rural areas served by an on-site sewage disposal system that does not meet enhanced nutrient removal standards. By permitting the use of Bay Restoration Funds, these on-site systems could be connected to municipal wastewater facilities, which meet standards. This is a very desirable outcome as illustrated by the connection of the communities of Bay View Estates, West View Shores, Sunset Pointe, and Pond Neck Road to the Cecilton wastewater facility because of pollution from Pearce Creek. Although this project was federally funded, the outcome of properly treated sewage enhanced the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

If this legislation is not approved, many rural communities in Cecil County that depend on on-site sewage disposal systems will continue to inadequately treat wastewater within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Cecil County Council respectfully requests that the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee consider a favorable report on SB 495.

Sincerely,

Robert Meffley
Council President

Copy: Senator Steve Hershey
Senator Jason Gallion