



February 19, 2020

Senate Bill 460

Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Anne Arundel County residents care deeply about protecting the environment and our natural resources. This is made clear every day as citizens reach out to the Administration and County agencies to report sediment running off construction sites, tree clearing, wetland violations, and other potential violations of environmental and natural resource laws. Often these alleged violations overlap County and State laws and regulations, complicating investigations into the complaints and sometimes leading to different assessments and responses to constituents from different layers of government. This can lead constituents to lack faith in their government's ability to efficiently enforce environmental and natural resource protections.

Transparency is a hallmark of the Anne Arundel County Administration, and we believe that adding an Ombudsman Office that collects, processes, refers and reports complaints of environmental and natural resources violations is simply good governance. We strongly support this bill, and recommend only expanding the authority of the Ombudsman Office's to cover any natural resources or conversation law or regulation related to managing or protecting forests and the critical area of the Chesapeake Bay. To accomplish this, we urge a **FAVORABLE** report and offer the enclosed **AMENDMENTS** for consideration by the Committee and sponsors.

Red indicates proposed amended language.

page 2, lines 15-17

(2) A NATURAL RESOURCES OR CONSERVATION LAW OR REGULATION RELATED TO MANAGING OR PROTECTING **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY,** WILDLIFE OR FISHERY SPECIES OR POPULATIONS.

page 3, lines 24-26

(II) WHETHER THE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE SUSPECTED VIOLATION RELATES TO AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES.

page 4, lines 8-10

2. WHETHER THE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE SUSPECTED VIOLATION RELATES TO AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES;

page 4, lines 22-24

(III) WHETHER THE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE SUSPECTED VIOLATION RELATES TO AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES; AND

page 5, lines 15-17

3. WHETHER THE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE SUSPECTED VIOLATION RELATES TO AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES; AND

page 5, lines 19-24

(II) A LIST OF EACH INSPECTION THAT HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DURING THE PREVIOUS 365 DAYS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION RELATED TO MANAGING OR PROTECTING AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON:

page 6, lines 4-5

8. WHETHER THE BASIS OF THE INSPECTION INVOLVED AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES;

page 6, lines 6-11

(III) A LIST OF EACH ENFORCEMENT ACTION THAT HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DURING THE PREVIOUS 365 DAYS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR REGULATION RELATED TO MANAGING OR PROTECTING AMBIENT AIR QUALITY,

WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON:

page 6, lines 23-24

8. WHETHER THE BASIS OF THE ENFORCEMENT ACTION INVOLVED AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES;

page 7, lines 8-10

5. WHETHER THE ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE SUSPECTED VIOLATION RELATES TO AMBIENT AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, **FORESTS, THE CRITICAL AREA OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**, WILDLIFE, OR FISHERIES;