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Senate Bill SB 0671
Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs
February 19, 2020

POSITION: IN FAVOR

Back River Pre-Cast, LLC (BRP) is a Maryland company that manufactures precast products including concrete products used for wastewater. BRP is in favor of SB 671 with amendments. Currently the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) provides grants only for the installation of BAT wastewater treatment systems. SB671 is needed to allow counties to use BRF grants to purchase bonds for low interest loans to repair the entire septic system. Much like they do for sewer connections. There are many properties that need advanced dispersal systems to replace their failing septic system. The cost for of these repairs is between \$30,000.00 and \$75,000.00. This is a large financial burden for any property owner to undertake. SB671 will spread this burden out over many years. In addition, SB671 will allow twice the amount of BAT's to be installed using the same amount of existing funds. Further helping MD meet its Phase III WIP goals for septic, which currently are unachievable. In addition to helping protect our groundwater and local waterways from failing septic systems contaminating them. Most failing systems are only known of by the property owner, so there is no requirement from the local authority to have them repaired. SB671 will provide the financial assistance to encourage property owners make the necessary repairs to protect environmental and public health.

The need for assisting property owners is increasing every year. Modern septic systems using septic tanks did not become popular until the 1950's. Proper septic designs did not become common practice until the 1990's and we are still not designing some systems properly today. The average lifespan of a septic system is 20 – 30 years. Therefore, many of these improperly designed and sited systems are going to need costly repairs soon.

Thank you,

Matthew Geckle
Vice-President