



A-Plus Septic Service, LLC  
13083 Hickory Drive  
Galena, MD 21635  
410-778-6629

February 10, 2020

Re: House Bill 136

Dear House Members,

It has been brought to my attention that House Bill 136, which was introduced on January 15, 2020, has been set for a hearing and vote on or about February 21, 2020.

I have read over the Bill as proposed and as a small business owner in the State of Maryland have some major concerns about the effects that enacting this proposed Environment – On-Site Wastewater Services – Regulation would have on the local industry and the customers it serves.

As the Bill reads it seems to be a duplication of the regulations that are currently in place at the state level with the Maryland Department of the Environment, local governments, county health departments and planning and zoning administration. Currently, the businesses that this Bill targets are already governed by these bodies with licensing requirements and fees as well as continued education. What would this new regulation really bring to the table besides added fees and costs?

Would this newly established State Board of On-Site Wastewater Professionals take the place of the current governing bodies (State Board of Health, local governments and county health departments) or would this just be adding to the expense of the already strapped State Budget and small business owners? Or, would the businesses be charged licensing fees at both the state and county levels?

Small businesses are the backbone of the economy. This Bill would have no positive affect on the septic pumpers, septic installers or septic inspectors in the State of Maryland but would rather have a detrimental effect on the small businesses in the industry by adding additional licensing fees and expenses. These expenses would in turn be passed on to the customer with increased fees for services further hindering their decision to have their septic systems pumped or repaired/replaced. How would this help the environmental cause? Maryland homeowners need to be able to be offered an affordable price for the services rendered. Adding additional pass through costs would not be the way to accomplish this task.

With all of this being said, I strongly oppose this new Bill #136 as it currently is presented.

If it is felt that a state level board is necessary to monitor and regulate On-Site Wastewater Services then let's do this right and take some time to put safeguards in place to protect the small business and the customers served. Make sure that each county has a representative on the board, make sure that small businesses are represented on the board and that board does not consist of people who do not know the industry and how it truly operates.

You, as elected officials, are expected to serve the people that put you in this position with making decisions that put the best interests of the citizens of Maryland in the forefront. House Bill 136 does not have the best interest of the small businesses in the industry and the customers it serves in mind. Please do not push this Bill forward as written. Take some time to review closely and think about how this Bill will affect the citizens and small businesses operating in the industry, who elected you, first.

Respectfully,

S. Wayne Edwards, Jr.  
Owner