

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



Reply to:

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chairman
The Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 136 – On-Site Wastewater Services
Regulation

Dear Delegate Stein and Committee Members:

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (the Conference) *opposes* HB 136 with respect to the regulation of on-site wastewater services.

While the Conference appreciates the intent to increase accountability for these activities, we believe the scope of the bill is too broad sweeping in scope. For example, minimum standards already exist through state regulation, delegated authority, plumbing codes, and local ordinances. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) promulgates regulations regarding on-site disposal systems and delegates authority to local health departments (LHDs). Under the bill, LHDs would be required to adopt and enforce regulations and standards established by the Board that may not align with their delegated authority or established directives from MDE. Additionally, the licensure of all on-site wastewater service professionals would have detrimental fiscal impacts to small businesses, homeowners, and local jurisdictions.

Given these and other concerns posed by the Conference, we are opposed to HB 136.

Accordingly, we request the Committee give HB 136 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter. If you have further questions concerning this written testimony, please contact me at 301-883-7602.

Respectfully,

Evelyn Hoban, President
Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors