



Support of HB136

To the members of The Maryland House of Delegates Environmental and Transportation Committee,

The Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association is in favor of this bill.

Technology and techniques utilized in designing, installing and maintaining onsite sewage disposal systems has advanced greatly over the past 40 years. Many of the Onsite systems installed today are just like the ones installed 40 years ago. However, increasingly, more and more systems are utilizing advanced technologies. The Advanced Treatment Units (ATU), (some of which are designated as BAT units), and Advanced Dispersal Systems (ADS), shallow pressurized systems, Sand Mound, At-Grade Mound, Drip Dispersal, Peat Filters, etc. are being installed at a higher rate every year. All of these systems require electrical controls and some sort of ongoing maintenance. These systems also require a higher level of design and detail in installation.

Unfortunately, oversight of the industry has not kept pace with the technology and techniques. Some Onsite professionals who either don't understand or are not willing to learn the intricacies of designing, installing and maintaining the more advanced systems are placing the individual property owners for whom they provide their services and the environment at risk. There is a disconnect between installers, designers, pumpers and maintenance professionals. One of MOWPA's main missions is to bring all of these professional's together and provide training and education in order to better protect the state's ground water supplies and give homeowners quality workmanship to protect their property values.

An Onsite Wastewater System is the most expensive appliance in the home. It deserves to have qualified and trained professionals designing, installing, and maintaining it. With each year, an increasing number of properties with occupied dwelling are being found to have failing sewage disposal systems where the repair options are limited to systems utilizing advanced technologies. This is why more and more advanced, automated systems are being utilized. In most of these cases, connection to public sewer is not an option and the repairs represent the last possible repair option; the final option being installation of a holding tank and pumping out all wastes generated onsite in perpetuity.

A governing Board of Industry Members, Regulators, and Consumers would help bring a level of professionalism to this Industry that it deserves. In the long run it will help to protect our ground water, protect property values, and protect consumers.

MOWPA Board of Directors

Rob Powell, President

Feb. 10, 2020

The Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (MOWPA) is a 501 C(6) not-for-profit organization, chartered in September 2004 to provide education and training programs for individuals and companies working in the onsite sewage disposal system industry.

OUR MISSION....to promote and enhance the use of onsite wastewater treatment and disposal by providing a forum for education, development and information transfer in order to create viable treatment processes, design, construction, operation and maintenance capabilities within the onsite industry