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House Bill HB 0136

House of Delegates Environmental and Transportation Committee

Position : INFAVOR

C.R. SEMLER Inc. is a 60 year old company that has concentrated the majority of its efforts in the on-site wastewater industry and I have spent 40 years in the industry manufacturing, installing, servicing and inspecting on-site septic systems.

I've seen hundreds of systems butchered by poor contractors who have never even seen a copy of the state or a counties regulations because there is no state licensing for septic system installations and in many counties there is either no license required or no official test for a license simply a registering process thus leaving the consumer with little to no protection from poor workmanship.

Poorly installed septic systems are unlike other types of construction work in the fact that once the property owners soil structures have been disturbed those areas often become unusable for drain field installation leaving the owners with limited or in many cases insufficient area to simply install a normal system. Basically a mistake that often cost 4 times the original cost to fix and in some cases there is no fix so no matter how big or nice the house they often end up limited to a 1 or 2 bedroom home due to available septic area.

The problems I listed above are all directly related to the home owner that hired a poor contractor but its important to remember that the vast majority of wastewater seeps deeper into the earth until it intermingles with the subsurface water tables that supply all drinking wells in the state so a uneducated or uncaring contractor can and they have polluted the wells in a large area now affecting neighboring property owners for miles around and there is no easy or cheap fix for the problem.

A state licensing board is the best option to bring equal oversight and standards into the wastewater industry in this state and a board would be much like the numerous state boards that have been in place for many years in the state for the purpose protecting the consumers and the environment.

C.R. SEMLER Inc.

Charles R Semler Jr.

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