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BILL NO.: **HB 2**

TITLE: Maryland Environmental Service Reform Act of 2021

SPONSOR: Delegate Korman

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 3, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 2 – Maryland Environmental Service Reform Act of 2021. This legislation would require the Maryland Environmental Service to make changes to certain hiring practices, eliminating severance packages in certain cases, and requiring the appointment of a diversity officer.

The recent events that prompted this reform of the Maryland Environmental Service are a solemn reminder that without a mechanism for rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse, there is potential for exploitative behavior in government. Baltimore County Executive Olszewski pushed to create the Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General for this very reason. Open and transparent governance is the only way to promote and preserve faith in government institutions.

The Maryland Environmental Service, though not explicitly a government agency, receives 95% of its funding from state and local governments. Entities that operate exclusively or primarily on public funds must be made accountable to the public. They deserve better than to have their money wasted on frivolous purchases, and the money they contribute to state and local government must provide returns that benefit their communities. This bill will not only prevent incidents of abuse in the future, but will further a key policy objective of Baltimore County's.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 2. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.