



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 2 – Maryland Environmental Service Reform Act of 2021

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is providing the following information on Senate Bill 2. This bill seeks to make operational changes to the Maryland Environmental Service including tightening procurement authority and reorganizing its board of directors.

Both the Administration and the General Assembly share the goal of taking concrete and meaningful action to address practices within the Maryland Environmental Service. On December 16, 2020, Governor Hogan enacted Executive Order 01.01.2020.05, establishing the State Transparency and Accountability Reform (STAR) Commission with the task of reviewing quasi-governmental agencies and establishing best practices for their operations. Former Senator Andrew Serafini will chair the STAR Commission, on which Secretary Haddaway-Riccio is a member. Because the Commission's work is still underway, it is premature to make major operational changes to the Maryland Environmental Service at this time.

Thank you for allowing the department to submit this information on SB 2 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

Contact: James McKitrick, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
JamesW.McKitrick@maryland.gov ♦ 443-510-5013