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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
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Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
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Testimony for Senate Bill 854
Graywater Systems – Public and Private Buildings – Authorization
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 24, 2022

Chairman Pinsky and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Senate Bill 854 - Graywater Systems – Public and Private Buildings – Authorization.**

Currently, there is no law in place to allow for the disposal of graywater systems safely and properly for small, seasonal businesses. Businesses located on a dredge site are also prohibited from using graywater systems on their property, resulting in issues with establishing a successful and clean business.

SB854 would authorize the use of a graywater system for handwashing and three-compartment sinks by a public or private building that is located on a former dredge site, or is located in a remote area with minimal public access and operates on a seasonal basis. These tanks would be required to be disposed of in accordance with regulations and guidelines established by the Maryland Department of Health.

Amendments have also been submitted to define and include three-compartment bar **sanitation** sinks to be used with this system as well.

Proper regulations are essential in order to preserve natural waterfronts, especially the Chesapeake Bay, from any further pollution from wastewater. However, this should be done in a way that does not harm our small businesses as well. Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report of SB854.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt