

**Written Testimony Regarding
House Bill 834
Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems – Outreach and Education (Septic
Awareness Act of 2022)**

From the desk of:

F Edward Harrison, Jr.

**Representing Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (MOWPA)
P.O. Box 2570 Ellicott City, MD 21041
443-570-2029**

MOWPA is in Support of this Bill

My name is Eddie Harrison, I am the legislative liaison representing MOWPA (Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association). I submit this testimony on behalf of MOWPA, myself, and no other entity.

MOWPA represents all Maryland professionals in the Onsite Industry. We have in our membership: Installers, Pumpers, Engineers, Property Transfer Inspectors, Operation and Maintenance Providers, and Code Officials.

[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. www.mowpa.org

I represent MOWPA as an un-compensated Legislative Liaison, current Vice-President, and former Board President.

My day job is the owner of BAT Onsite, LLC. BAT Onsite, LLC., which is primarily an Operation and Maintenance Provider for automated Onsite Wastewater Systems. Including, but not limited to: Advanced Treatment Units (including BAT), Pump Systems, Mound Systems, Drip Dispersal Systems, and pretty much any Onsite Wastewater System that requires electrical/mechanical operation under 5,000 gallons per day. I am currently servicing over 500 units, covering the whole State of Maryland. I have been working in the Onsite Wastewater Industry as an installer, pumper, designer, property transfer inspector, and operation and maintenance provider since 1984.

MOWPA, as well as myself, are in support of any initiative that provides and encourages education for the Onsite Wastewater Industry. In my experience, I witness so many property owners that have no concept of how their septic system works, how to feed it properly, how to maintain the system properly, or, in some cases, where it is located, or that they have one.

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The Onsite Wastewater System (Septic System) is the most expensive appliance in the home. The simplest, conventional, system requires proper use and periodic maintenance. The more complex systems require a steady maintenance schedule. In both cases, this maintenance is necessary to acquire a long life for the system. Proper maintenance is also important to protect the environment and public health.

This Initiative has been promoted, for several years, by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and by the National Onsite Wastewater Recyclers Association (NOWRA), MOWPA's national affiliate.

Maryland, by Legislature or by a Governor's decree, has declared the third week in September as Septic Smart Week for a couple of years now. It would be a great thing for this to be an annual initiative coming from MDE.

Requiring septic related educational materials to be given to new property owners is a very good idea.

Thank you so much for your time and MOWPA encourages a favorable report on HB834.