

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the



**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

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TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 492 – *Environment – Discharge Permits – Inspections and Administrative Continuations*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** Senate Bill 492.

MDSWA appreciates the intent of this legislation, which is to ensure timely permit renewals and enhance oversight and enforcement of permittees who are not in compliance with their discharge permit requirements. However, MDSWA believes its implementation could have significant unintended consequences for permittees that have been in compliance with the law and are seeking a permit renewal. Currently, administrative continuations are only granted when a permittee has submitted a renewal application. The continuation enables the permittee to continue to operate its facility during the permit renewal process. If Senate Bill 492 is passed and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) fails to complete a renewal application within the defined timeframe, a lawfully operating permittee would be required to close or discontinue its operations until a new permit is issued. Permittees should not suffer as a result of MDE's inability to timely process a renewal permit. The time limits on administrative continuances should be deleted from the legislation.

MDSWA is also concerned about the lack of clear definition of what constitutes "significant compliance". While MDE supports strong enforcement of permit requirements, it is critical that factors that determine the level of noncompliance and related enforcement provisions are clearly and specifically defined. If this bill is to advance, the definition of what is considered "significant" must be defined.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000