Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2W
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 250 – Private Well Safety Act of 2022

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed HB 250, *Private Well Safety Act of 2022,* and would like to share some information on this legislation. MDE worked with the sponsor and stakeholders extensively on HB 250 and through conversations on the House side, amendments were made to address many of our previous concerns.

HB 250 proposes to amend Title 9 of the Environment Article by requiring MDE to expand the existing Private Well Safety Program (Program) and set up a Private Well Safety Fund to make grants to help cover the costs of water quality testing and remediation for private wells. The bill requires records of certificates of potability and water quality testing results to be uploaded to a portal accessible by the public. It requires MDE to annually report the information and data collected pursuant to the Program.

The legislation, as proposed, does not identify a source of funding to implement the bill's requirements. While the Department currently has adequate and sufficient staff and resources to conduct its mission effectively and efficiently, any additional legislatively-mandated program or regulation, such as this, could hamper our efficiency, force us to divert resources away from current core competencies, and could disrupt customer service and/or diminish services.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 250 during the committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Vaughn Stewart
        Lee Currey, MDE, Director, Water and Science Administration