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**BILL NO.:**           **House Bill 621**

**TITLE:**             Sewage Treatment Plants - Effluent Discharges - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Inspection

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Grammer

**COMMITTEE:**      Environment and Transportation

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             February 16, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 621 – Sewage Treatment Plants - Effluent Discharges - Monitoring, Evaluation, and Inspection. This legislation requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to monitor effluent discharge from sewage treatment plants and evaluate its impacts on local midge populations.

Midge populations have overwhelmed communities in Baltimore County, particularly on the County’s eastern waterfront. These small fleas habituate and breed in standing water, and feed on nutrients in effluent discharge. Baltimore County has begun the process of overhauling sewage facilities and wastewater treatment plants with improvements including the development and execution of total maximum daily load implementation plans to improve the quality of the water discharged by our plants.

This bill will require The Maryland Department of the Environment to monitor effluent discharge from treatment plants and evaluate whether nutrients or other constituents may be contributing to midge population growth. The bill will aid efforts by the State and County to provide relief for residents and businesses along the water who are significantly burdened by these nuisance insects.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 621. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).