

SB 246_CBF_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Girard

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 246

Wicomico County – Sanitary District - Authorization

Date: February 9, 2023

Position: Support

To: Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee

From: Alan Girard, Eastern Shore Director

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 246, which authorizes Wicomico County to create a sanitary district. The locality is currently the only Eastern Shore county without this authority.

There are approximately 18,000 septic systems in Wicomico County. Some of these systems are located in “Sewer Problem Areas” as identified in the 2010 Wicomico County Water and Sewer Plan. These areas are places with known septic system failures or systems with potential to fail. When septic systems fail, high concentrations of nutrients and bacteria can enter the groundwater and surface water. Most residential wells installed in the county prior to 2000 access drinking water from unconfined aquifers that are part of the groundwater table. Septic system failures can contaminate these aquifers and lead to a public health emergency. Nutrient-laden septic effluent in groundwater that leaches to local rivers can also make local waters unsafe for swimming and fishing and can threaten the health of aquatic life in the Chesapeake Bay.

To address these issues, Wicomico County officials are considering establishing a county sanitary district. A sanitary district will enable the county to create a formal structure for correcting septic system failures, that where feasible and intentionally designed to not serve new growth, may include centralized treatment solutions. The County is currently evaluating measures that can help accurately assess the extent of septic failures while involving citizens to validate these problems and inform a local response. The sanitary district authorization enabled by SB 246 will provide Wicomico County with an administrative pathway to identify service area and treatment alternatives, develop and satisfy wastewater policy compliance measures, and create governance, operations, and finance strategies that can help correct septic system failures within the jurisdiction.

CBF urges the Committee’s FAVORABLE report on SB 246. For more information, please contact Alan Girard, Eastern Shore Director at agirard@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

Letter of Support SB 246 CWP.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel McHugh

Position: FAV

February 3, 2023

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Attn: Hon. Senator / Chairman Brian J. Feldman
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: MD 2023 SB 246 Wicomico County – Sanitary District - Authorization

Dear Senator / Chairman Feldman & Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members,

Please accept this letter of support for *MD 2023 SB 246 Wicomico County – Sanitary District – Authorization*. In Wicomico County there are approximately 18,000 septic systems. When septic systems fail, high concentrations of nutrients and bacteria can enter the groundwater and surface water. In Wicomico County, most residential wells installed prior to 2000 are in unconfined aquifers. Shallow aquifers that are unconfined, or part of the groundwater table, are subject to contamination from septic system failure. Septic system failure can cause contamination of the drinking water source aquifers and lead to a public health emergency. Nutrient-laden septic effluent is also a primary contaminant of local rivers.

I recently served on the Greater Salisbury Committee's Task Force for Water and Sewer. The Task Force developed a white paper which outlined a process for Wicomico County to follow to implement the County's Water and Sewer Master Plan which was finalized in 2021. The Water and Sewer Master Plan identifies that 10,000 septic systems could be served by existing municipalities, and recommends that approximately 5,000 septic systems in rural communities receive service from new regional systems. In order for the municipal extensions or new regional systems to be implemented, Wicomico County needs to be the responsible entity for the County's water and sewer utilities. The legislation to allow Wicomico County to create a Sanitary District is the first step in this process.

I have over 26 years of engineering experience, primarily on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. I have lived in Wicomico County for the majority of my life and am passionate about the need for the County to take action to reduce the number of septic systems. I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report for *MD 2023 SB 246 Wicomico County – Sanitary District – Authorization*.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information. I can be reached at 410-696-3945 or ahp@cwp.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Amanda H. Pollack, P.E.
Water Resources Engineer

Letter Testimony SB 246 Sanitary Dist001.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel McHugh

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

Bunky Luffman
Director of Administration

02/02/2023

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Attn: Hon. Senator / Chairman Brian J. Feldman
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: MD 2023 SB 246 Wicomico County – Sanitary District - Authorization

Senator / Chairman Feldman & Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members,

Please accept this as a letter of support for *MD 2023 SB 246 Wicomico County – Sanitary District – Authorization*.

As County Executive of Wicomico County, the issue of the implementation of water and sewer is one that is frequently discussed. It was also brought up in several situations while on the campaign trail. This particular comprehensive project has been “in the works” since the 1970’s, but no forward movement has occurred.

Due to the lack of movement, our county now has numerous houses with failing septic tanks as well as other issues. We are also challenged with stricter environmental regulations from MDE. That is why it is imperative that we as a county take the first necessary steps to move this plan forward.

I want to applaud the terrific work by the Greater Salisbury Committee. This organization put together a team of experts to create a comprehensive plan to get this project moving. Not only was the team comprised of field experts and real estate leaders, but it also included the eight municipalities here in Wicomico County. The committee has released a white paper report listing the necessary steps to implement this plan, the first step being that Wicomico County request from the state the ability to create a Sanitary District Commission.

We understand this will be a long and costly project, but it is necessary for the future of Wicomico County.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report for *MD 2023 SB 246 Wicomico County – Sanitary District – Authorization*.

Thank You,



Julie M. Giordano
Wicomico County Executive

Support letter for Senate Bill 246.pdf

Uploaded by: Daniel McHugh

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

Bunky Luffman
Director of Administration

February 02, 2023

The Honorable Chairman Senator Brian J. Feldman
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: MD 2023 SB 246 Wicomico County – Sanitary District – Authorization

Dear Chairman Feldman:

Please accept this letter of support for proposed Senate Bill 246, which will grant authority to the Wicomico County Executive and Wicomico County Council to create a Sanitary District Commission. The creation of a Commission specific to sanitation is imperative to help Wicomico County move forward in its mission to address long-standing issues surrounding Water and Sewer.

This bill will grant Wicomico County the authority to create a Sanitary District at the local level, which will create more local control for the County. Since this bill pertains specifically to Wicomico County, we respectfully request that this bill move forward as a local bill.

We thank you for your time and consideration of support. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the Wicomico County Council Office at (410) 548-4696.

Respectfully,

Julie M. Giordano
Wicomico County Executive

John T. Cannon
Wicomico County Council President

SB 246 Testimony - Carozza_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Position: FAV

MARY BETH CAROZZA
Legislative District 38
Somerset, Wicomico,
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 9, 2023

The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
SB 246 – Wicomico County – Sanitary District - Authorization
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the distinguished Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for allowing me to present Senate Bill 246 – Wicomico County – Sanitary District – Authorization.

Senate Bill 246 is an important local bill. It simply would allow Wicomico County to create a Wicomico Sanitary District which is the first step for Wicomico County to implement its Water and Sewer Master Plan which was finalized in 2021.

By way of background, Wicomico County has approximately 18,000 septic systems, with many of the residential wells installed prior to 2000 in unconfined aquifers. The County has developed a plan and a map to correct existing septic and sewer system failures in Wicomico County, and to include new infrastructure that may be connected to existing municipal treatment facilities or new centralized systems.

It is my understanding that Wicomico County is the only county in Maryland that does not have a county-wide department dedicated to managing wastewater. Wicomico County needs to be the responsible entity for the County's water and sewer utilities, and this bill provides that authority by establishing the sanitary district.

I also wanted to share that I personally have participated in several Wicomico County meetings with the Maryland Department of Environment and other state officials, county and municipal elected officials and their engineers, developers, realtors and homeowners to work together to address failing septic systems and outdated, at-capacity municipal wastewater treatment plants. I especially want to thank the Wicomico Water and Sewer Committee of the Greater Salisbury Committee for their leadership as we move forward with this legislation, Senate Bill 246, to address the long-standing challenges surrounding water and sewer in Wicomico County.

I truly appreciate your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully ask for a swift and favorable report on SB 246.