



Wes Moore GOVERNOR

Aruna Miller LT. GOVERNOR

Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 15, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and the Environmental Committee
Miller Senate Building, Room 2
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 880 - Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) supports Senate Bill 880, which would establish the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force to study approaches to water and wastewater governance in the Baltimore region. MES urges the committee to grant Senate Bill 880 a favorable report.

MES supports the design and construction, operations and maintenance, and management of biosolids at water and wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) across the State, including many municipal, county, and privately-owned facilities, as well as State-owned plants at correctional and health facilities, rest areas, and State parks. The MES engineering staff plan and manage capital improvement and other public works projects, helping clients determine their water and wastewater needs; assisting in selecting the right-size facility, technology, and equipment; preparing specifications; and overseeing the upgrades of older plants and the construction of new ones. In many cases, MES operations and maintenance staff remain on these sites, handling the day-to-day tasks that keep plants running smoothly and meeting permit requirements, along with help from the biosolids staff who work to ensure environmentally acceptable, reliable, and cost-effective methods are used to manage the solid material generated by each WWTP.

Previously, MES assisted Baltimore City in bringing the Back River WWTP into compliance. MES partnered with Baltimore City to accomplish this task in the first 90 days.

While MES would not be an official member of this proposed Task Force, MES is required to be consulted on the report development and recommendations. MES will add invaluable insight on many levels, and we look forward to contributing in any way we can.

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