

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