

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE P.O. BOX 870 SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870 410-548-4801 FAX: 410-548-4803

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