



April 2, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Cheryl Kagan  
Vice Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

RAUCH inc. writes to express **support** for **House Bill 1512 Bay Restoration Fund - Use of Funds - Municipal Wastewater Facilities - Sunset Repeal** introduced by Delegates Chris Adams and Tom Hutchinson and cross-filed by Senator Johnny Mautz (Senate Bill 1173).

Our firm provides engineering and professional services to local government and private sector clients throughout the State of Maryland. Consistent with Maryland's Chesapeake Bay restoration goals, many of our clients are eliminating failing septic systems by connecting to public wastewater services.

With the passage of House Bill 1035 in 2020, Maryland residents and businesses were able to access resources to eliminate their failing septic systems more quickly. The legislation deemed them eligible to apply for assistance through the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Water Quality Financing programs as soon as their local water treatment plant was in construction for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) rather than requiring them to wait until construction was complete. Construction of an ENR upgrade can take several years. MDE's funding cycle adds another year meaning the entire process could take 4-5 years. Unfortunately, the 2020 legislation included a sunset date of June 2024. Without legislative action, Maryland citizens will no longer be able to take advantage of this expedited process.

House Bill 1512 removes the sunset provision and will once again allow Maryland residents and businesses to access needed resources to eliminate failing septic systems and advance Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. We thank you in advance for your consideration and respectfully request a favorable report of House Bill 1512.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JHR", is positioned above the typed name.

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio  
Vice President of Government Relations