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BILL NO.: **HB 1509**

TITLE: Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup –
Established

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 12, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** HB1509 – Baltimore Regional Water Governance Model Workgroup – Established, as the necessary next step toward developing an alternative governance model for water and wastewater in the greater Baltimore Metropolitan region.

During the 2023 Session, the House and Senate passed SB880/HB843 creating a Regional Task Force to begin looking at alternatives to the current structures of governance, capital and fiscal planning, and maintenance and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems that serve some two million residents across the Baltimore region. That Task Force met over several months in 2023 and identified several threshold issues that require additional research and evaluation before the Task Force could make an informed set of recommendations.

HB1509 would create a Work Group, with members appointed as they were under SB880/HB843 in 2023, to continue the important due diligence work needed to identify and implement a regional governance model that best fits the needs of all affected customers and jurisdictions. This Work Group was a key recommendation made in the report of the Baltimore Regional Water Governance Task Force submitted in accordance with Chapter 179 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 23 2023 to the General Assembly, the Governor, the Mayor of Baltimore City and the Baltimore County Executive in January this year.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1509 from the House Environment and Transportation Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs, at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.