

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

501 Court Lane, P.O. Box 26

Cambridge, Maryland 21613

(410) 228-1700

GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR., PRESIDENT

MIKE DETMER, VICE PRESIDENT

ROB KRAMER, JR.

WILLIAM V. NICHOLS

RICKY C. TRAVERS



JERRY JONES  
COUNTY MANAGER

MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 7, 2025

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

RE: LOS – SB964 Dorchester County - Well and On-Site Sewage Disposal Activities - Privatization Program

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 964 entitled "Dorchester County - Well and On-Site Sewage Disposal Activities - Privatization Program" for the purpose of authorizing the Department of the Environment, at the request of the Dorchester County government and a certain delegated approval authority for Dorchester County, to establish a privatization program for the performance of certain activities associated with a certain well or on-site sewage disposal system delegation of authority in Dorchester County; and generally relating to the performance of well and on-site sewage disposal activities in Dorchester County.

Privatizing the inspection and permitting process for residential and commercial wells and on-site septic systems will enhance efficiencies for services that are currently only completed by the Environmental Health Office through the Dorchester County Health Department. Expanding services from being completed by the Environmental Health Office alone, to multiple private contractors can offer several advantages, such as increasing the turnaround time for processing permits and inspections, providing flexible hours for customers outside of standard office hours, distribute the level risk and liability from the services rendered, lessening that of the State of Maryland. This shift will also provide cost savings from decreasing that liability, as well as decreasing operational resources for in-house services, which the potential savings could be reallocated to other vital public health initiatives and community programs. Senate Bill 964 will also benefit the community by stimulating the local economy through the creation of new business opportunities for companies that specialize in well and septic services, foster job creation, business growth and increased competition. Also this will increase the health and safety of the community by enabling faster inspections and repairs, which will prevent or reduce the impact of failing septic systems.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.

President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator  
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate  
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate  
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate