



St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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March 27, 2025

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

RE: **Testimony in Support of HB 491**
St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission

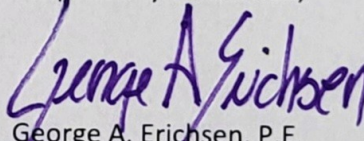
Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

We greatly appreciate the introduction of this Bill, which represents the joint efforts of the Southern Maryland Delegation, the Metropolitan Commission and Commissioners of St. Mary's County over the past several years to help modernize and update the local Code.

The proposed revisions will serve three primary purposes: **(1)** Provides authority / flexibility for the discontinuance of service caused by accidental (*ie. fires*), manmade (*ie. vandalism*), or natural disasters (*ie. tornados*) and temporary relief / suspension of certain charges until service is restored. Currently, the only provision available to discontinue service is due to non-payment; **(2)** Ensures consistency with the balance of the Chapter which addresses both public water and sewer and removes confusing /outdated text; and **(3)** Enables the Commission to recoup actual costs (*ie. time and materials in excess of \$1,000*) resulting from damage to public utilities caused by third parties which should not be borne by the Commission's customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the above referenced House Bill. In the interim, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself at 240-298-6106 or Mr. R. Christopher Beaver at 917-806-7314.

Respectfully Submitted,


George A. Erichsen, P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Senator John Bailey
Delegate Brian Crosby
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Todd Morgan
Commissioners of St. Mary's County
St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
R. Christopher Beaver, General Counsel, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission