

ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 24, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Opposition on HB909 – Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits – Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
– Concentration Limits

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members,

On behalf of Harford County, I am writing to share serious concerns with House Bill 909. Harford County is a Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA) Member and support MAMWA's comments on this bill and encourage Committee members to review them carefully.

This bill would have a major impact on our plants and would drive up costs significantly for our ratepayers. If biosolids land application is effectively banned, Harford will be forced to find alternatives either out-of-state or at landfills. We fully anticipate that, if there are even options available (which may not be the case), our current annual biosolids management budget of \$727,000 will increase to approximately \$3,452,000. As a local utility, and during times of unprecedented budget shortfalls, we will have no choice but to pass those costs on to our ratepayers who are already facing on-going inflationary pressure on essentials like food, housing, transportation, and energy costs.

This bill is also unnecessary. The State's wastewater treatment plants are working right now with MDE on implementing last year's Protecting State Waters from PFAS Pollution Control Act. This important work is focused on PFAS sources—which are unequivocally not local wastewater plants—to reduce the level of PFAS loadings from those industries into local plants. In addition, MDE has a new policy in place that recommends that additional steps be taken if biosolids with more than 20 ppb will be land applied. In short, there is good work underway to address PFOS and PFOA levels in biosolids, and this work will be disrupted by HB909.

I respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee report unfavorably on HB909.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A blue ink signature of Robert G. Cassilly, written in a cursive style.

Robert G. Cassilly