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## **HB 131 Environment – Bay Restoration Fund – Septic System Upgrade Program**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**  
February 5, 2025

Favorable with Amendments

Back River Precast is supportive of HB131 efforts to expand the use of the septic Bay Restoration Fund beyond the Critical Areas to other impaired waterways.

We know that septic systems are failing throughout Maryland at a concerning pace and are causing pollution of many waterways, not just in the Critical Areas. The BRF should be available to these properties, especially in already nitrogen impaired waterways.

The Best Available Technology (BATs) septic units reduce nitrogen – which traditional systems do not – and provide a better reduction of other pollution coming out of septic systems. This is a win for our waters but also for the property owners, especially for their wells.

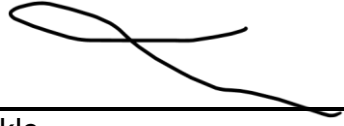
I do have concerns about the new ranking systems proposed by MDE, I agree that ranking BATs effectiveness is key to ensure that the scarce BRF funds are maximized to protect the health and environment of Marylanders. However, I do believe that this section of the bill needs further work and more conversations with the industry to ensure that we get the best systems rated for use in Maryland and should be removed from this years bill. To begin with, MDE should look at the system used in Long Island, New York uses to ensure their systems are the best at protecting the environment and property owner.

MDE's ranking systems should include:

- Maintenance and operating costs
- Equipment quality – to ensure decades of use.
- Independent verification not just manufacturer information.

- Consider reciprocity – if another state has approved then also good in Maryland. This is an important issue, and we will continue to work with MDE to make this bill better.

Thank you,



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Matthew Geckle

Vice-President