



Karen Henry, Director
2662 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401
410-222-7042
pwhenr00@aacounty.org
www.dpwandyou.com

February 24, 2025

Environment and Transportation Committee
251 Taylor Avenue
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Korman,

The Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works (DPW) strongly opposes House Bill 909 - Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Concentration Limits. This legislation, as currently drafted, creates an unfunded mandate that will impose significant and undue financial burdens on Anne Arundel County and its residents.

HB 909's concentration limits for PFOS and PFOA will necessitate a drastic change in our biosolids management strategy. If biosolids land application is effectively banned, we will be forced to find alternatives out-of-state. If out-of-state options are available, which may not be the case, we anticipate that this will double our biosolids handling costs, increasing them from the current \$700 per dry ton to an estimated \$1,400 per dry ton. This translates to an approximate annual increase of **\$12 million** for Anne Arundel County. As a local utility, we have no choice but to pass those costs on to our ratepayers, which we do not want to do, especially when they are facing ongoing inflationary pressure on essentials like food, housing, transportation, and energy costs.

Beyond the immediate cost increase, HB 909 fails to provide sufficient time for the County to explore and implement more cost-effective disposal methods. It does not allow adequate time to plan, design, and construct treatment facilities capable of achieving the stringent PFOS and PFOA concentration limits of less than 1 microgram per kilogram. This lack of a reasonable timeframe places an unreasonable burden on local governments.

We understand and appreciate the General Assembly's efforts to address the important issue of PFAS contamination. However, we believe HB 909, in its current form, creates a crippling financial burden on our department and the residents of Anne Arundel County. We urge the Senate to reconsider the bill and explore alternative approaches that are both effective in addressing PFAS contamination and feasible for local governments to implement.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We respectfully request that you oppose House Bill 909.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Karen Henry
Director

cc: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee