

## **HB24\_County Council Balto County\_FAV**

Uploaded by: David Marks

Position: FAV



**County Council  
of  
Baltimore County**

Court House  
Towson, Maryland 21204

410-887-3196  
Fax: 410-887-5791

February 4 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Letter of Support for HB 24**

Distinguished Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

As members of the Baltimore County Council, we are writing to express our strong support for HB 24 – Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility.

By providing expanded access to sewer systems to certain homes with septic facilities, HB 24 will meaningfully benefit residents of Baltimore County. Expanding access to existing sewer systems will mitigate the potential for septic system failures, which can cause serious concern to residents' health and livelihood. In addition, reducing the likelihood of septic system failures will contribute to the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The ability of eligible residents to access state funds in this process alleviates potentially prohibitive costs and would also help relieve funding pressures for Baltimore County.

We therefore humbly request the committee return a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

David Marks  
Councilman, Fifth District

Todd K. Crandell  
Councilman, Seventh District

**Pat Young**  
FIRST DISTRICT

**Izzy Patoka**  
SECOND DISTRICT

**Wade Kach**  
THIRD DISTRICT

**Julian E. Jones, Jr.**  
FOURTH DISTRICT

**David Marks**  
FIFTH DISTRICT

**Michael Ertel**  
SIXTH DISTRICT

**Todd K. Crandell**  
SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Thomas H. Bostwick**  
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL  
SECRETARY

DM/TKC:clb

cc: Thomas H. Bostwick, Council Secretary

## **HB24\_Sines EMRCC\_FAV**

Uploaded by: Joshua Sines

Position: FAV

# **Essex Middle River Civic Council**

Established 1960

“Serving the Community for over sixty years”

January 30, 2025

Hello,

My name is Josh Sines. I am the president of the Essex Middle River Civic Council we are an umbrella organization representing 27 communities in the Essex and Middle River area.

I'm writing today to give our strong support for HB24 Bay Restoration Fund.

One of our communities in the area of Bengies Road 21220 has been designated for a new sewer line system. The cost for this project is estimated at \$1,800,000 for the 47 home community. This results in a minimum cost per homeowner of roughly \$40k

With a recent rise in cost of living that we've all felt, this is an additional burden to a historically under-served community who is trying to find their voice. Any help that can be given to them would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Respectfully;  
Joshua Sines  
EMRCC President

## **MBIA Letter of Support HB24.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

February 3rd, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: MBIA Letter of Opposition HB 24 Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility**

Dear Chairman Korman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 24 Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility**.

This bill allows the Bay Restoration Fund to include funds for the cost of connecting properties using an on-site sewage disposal system to an existing municipal wastewater facility in low-income areas. MBIA supports this measure, as connecting more buildings to municipal wastewater facilities will reduce the need for individual septic systems and will eliminate the burden and costs associated with installing an individual septic system. By setting an income limit of \$300,000, the bill allows many Maryland homeowners, particularly in low-income areas, to access the funding needed to connect to a municipal wastewater facility.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

# **NawrockiSzeligaHB24Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ryan Nawrocki

Position: FAV

KATHY SZELIGA  
*Legislative District 7A*  
Baltimore County

*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3698 · 301-858-3698  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3698  
Fax 410-841-3023 · 301-858-3023  
Kathy.Szeliga@house.state.md.us



*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

RYAN NAWROCKI  
*Legislative District 7A*  
Baltimore County

*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 322  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3289 · 301-858-3289  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3289  
Ryan.Nawrocki@house.state.md.us

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and distinguished members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Ryan Nawrocki, and I am joined by my colleague Delegate Kathy Szeliga, and we respectfully request a favorable report on HB 24 – Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility.

This bill aims to address two critical issues: the Chesapeake Bay's health and our residents' well-being. HB 24 would allow qualifying homes with septic systems to access limited Chesapeake Bay Restoration Funds to connect to existing municipal sanitary sewer systems. As we know, the health of the Bay is vital to both our environment and our economy. Ensuring that safe, properly managed sewage connections are more accessible to replace failing septic systems where appropriate is a necessary step in protecting this essential resource.

Currently, it can be very difficult to access Chesapeake Bay Restoration Funds when the home is not located in the critical bay area. We have now had two instances in our district where neighborhoods have had difficulty accessing the Baltimore area sanitary sewer system because of costs. This bill would seek to allow broader access for these kinds of communities.

In many cases, when septic systems fail, the consequences go beyond just environmental degradation. These failures can result in serious health risks for residents. However, the cost of connecting to sewage lines remains out of reach for many, particularly for low-income homeowners. This bill would help alleviate that financial burden and prevent the greater costs—both financial and public health-related—that would arise if a septic system continued to fail for long periods.

We have deliberately kept the bill narrow in scope, focusing on certain income levels to ensure that the funds are used efficiently and for those who need them most. However, we must recognize the interconnectedness of our communities. A single septic system failure does not only affect one household—but can have far-reaching consequences for the surrounding area, including for residents who may not have the means to address any issues that arise. That is why we believe we must offer some flexibility in income levels, ensuring that those who live near existing municipal sewage systems can connect. One unique element of areas near the water is that they can often have very broad differences in income levels in homes that can be right across the street from each other. We believe that if the income threshold is set too low to qualify for these funds we may have a piecemeal approach created of some accessing sanitary sewer systems where not all link in which ultimately is not as beneficial to the health of the Bay.



February 3, 2025

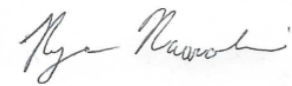
Page 2

We are also aware of the fiscal constraints that we are all working with. To address this, the bill prioritizes connections in areas where there are already existing sewage lines. While we certainly would like as many homes as possible to be able to connect to sanitary sewer systems, we believe that prioritizing neighborhoods with existing sewer infrastructure nearby allows us to target the lowest-hanging fruit more effectively and efficiently.

We would like to draw your attention to a specific provision in this bill that addresses a concern in our district. There is a wastewater treatment facility near Gunpowder Falls State Park, called the Richlyn Manor Wastewater Treatment Plant that has been scheduled for a transition to a pumping station for many years, but this has yet to occur. As such, we included language in the bill allowing residents to connect to existing facilities, regardless of their current performance such as the Richlyn Manor Wastewater Treatment facility to create discussion about this long failing facility. We have spoken with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) regarding this facility and are fully prepared to adjust this provision based upon our very productive discussions with MDE regarding the transition of this facility.

In conclusion, this bill is a balanced, thoughtful approach that will improve public health, protect the Chesapeake Bay, and provide critical support to residents seeking to connect to sanitary sewer systems. We urge you to give HB 24 a favorable report, as it will create lasting, positive impacts for our communities and the Bay.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Ryan Nawrocki  
Delegate, District 7A



Kathy Szeliga  
Delegate, District 7A

# **Written Testimony HB24.pdf**

Uploaded by: Edward Harrison

Position: FWA

P.O. Box 2570  
Ellicott City, MD 21041-2570  
(443-570-2029)  
info@mowpa.org



## **Favorable with Amendments for HB24 - Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility**

Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Eddie Harrison, I am the legislative liaison representing MOWPA (Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association). MOWPA represents all Maryland professionals in the Onsite Wastewater Industry. Our membership includes: Installers, Pumpers, Engineers, Property Transfer Inspectors, Operation and Maintenance Providers, and Code Officials.

I represent MOWPA as an un-compensated Legislative Liaison, current Vice-President, and former Board President.

My day job is the owner of BAT Onsite, LLC. BAT Onsite, LLC. is primarily an Operation and Maintenance Provider for automated Onsite Wastewater Systems. Including: Advanced Treatment Units (including BAT), Pump Systems, Mound Systems, Drip Dispersal Systems, and pretty much any Onsite Wastewater System that requires electrical/mechanical operation under 5,000 gallons per day. I am currently servicing close to 1,000 units, covering the whole State of Maryland. I have been working in the Onsite Wastewater Industry as an installer, pumper, designer, property transfer inspector, and operation and maintenance provider since 1984.

### **The Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) is a Very Successful and Valuable Program**

The BRF program was set up with an annual fee of \$60 per property to go into a special fund to reduce pollutants going to the Chesapeake Bay and other waterways. This fund has two categories.

- 1) Sewer category** is all properties served by public sewer. All properties that are hooked to public sewer are charged an annual fee of \$60 to be put in the “Sewer” fund. Moneys collected in this fund are to be spent on Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants for upgrades. Upgrades that reduce nitrogen and other nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay and other coastal waterways (The Bay). This program has been very successful. During the inception of the “Sewer” side of this program, funds were tight. Many advocates were anxious about the slow start. Today, most all the wastewater plants have been upgraded and the

P.O. Box 2570  
Ellicott City, MD 21041-2570  
(443-570-2029)  
info@mowpa.org



moneys can be diverted to other projects that reduce nitrogen and other nutrients from entering the Bay.

- 2) **Septic category** is all properties served by Onsite Wastewater Systems (OSDS), AKA “Septic Systems”. All properties that maintain their own OSDS/septic system located on the same property as the structure it serves pay their annual fee of \$60 to the “Septic” fund. The money collected for this fund is set aside to pay for OSDS/septic system upgrades. These upgrades utilize “Best Available Technology for the reduction of nitrogen” (BAT) treatment technologies with the purpose of reducing the nitrogen and other nutrients from entering the “Bay”. Each County is awarded a portion of this fund on an annual basis.

This portion of the BRF program, unlike the “Sewer” side, was underutilized in the beginning. It was initiated as a grant program. Private property owners and contractors were slow to catch on to the benefits. As a result of the slow start, legislature relocated some of those early funds for the “General Fund” and designate 40% of the OSDS money to the “Cover Crop” program.

Today, most of the counties use up all their allocated money. BRF funding has become a vital tool to repair and upgrade poorly functioning or failing OSDS/septic systems on difficult sites.

**Onsite Wastewater Disposal Systems (OSDS) have only been a “Standard of Living” in the rural community since WWII.** Outhouses and minimal indoor water use was the standard prior to that. In the late 40s, 50s and early 60s septic systems were not regulated. They were crude, primitive and “Trial and Error” systems. As a rule, Maryland didn’t do soil evaluations (Perc Tests) until the late 60s, the perc tests were done after the house was built. Soil evaluations evolved up through the 70s, 80s and 90s.

There are a lot of homes in rural Maryland that were built prior to 1945, with no indoor plumbing and no plans to have a septic system. They were built in close proximity to streams and other water sources to save on carrying clean water.

P.O. Box 2570  
Ellicott City, MD 21041-2570  
(443-570-2029)  
info@mowpa.org



Prior to 1970 a large number of homes were built in Maryland with little to no soil evaluation, no consideration for lot size and with an attitude “Dig a hole, it will go somewhere”.

Even more properties were developed through the 70s, 80s and 90s with the evolving soil evaluation techniques and improved odds of properly evaluated OSDS/septic system placement.

All OSDS/septic systems have a life expectancy of between 15 and 30 years. Most systems that are properly evaluated will fail in that timeframe and cost between \$9K and \$15K to replace the drainfield. This is considered “The cost of owning a rural home”. In my experience this would apply to 80%\* to 90%\* of the OSDS repairs performed today. The Onsite Industry utilizes BRF funding for the 10%\* or so systems that can cost a property owner from \$30K to \$70K to repair, due to limiting geography and soil conditions.

*(\*These numbers are a guesstimate, based on my experience in this industry)*

When professionals from our industry are called to one of these properties the property owner is not the original owner. They have bought this property expecting their OSDS to function properly. A majority of these difficult properties are middle to lower income properties as most larger homes have been built since the 90s. These property owners are facing a \$60K repair on a home worth \$200K to \$400K. There may not be enough equity in the home to get a loan, let alone have that kind of money available sitting around. The BRF grant program does a lot of good work for a lot of Maryland citizens. Adjusting and massaging this program could help so many more.

### **The intention of this Bill,**

As was explained to me by the sponsors of this Bill and conversations with the local approving authority; this Bill was prompted by a specific, moderate sized subdivision (and can apply to any subdivision with a similar situation). Through verbal conversations, I was told the project to hook these particular homes to the nearby public sewer could cost between \$2.5M to \$3M. I was told that the County in question receives about \$2.5M per year that is pulled from the “Septic” side for of all their BRF funded BATs. This will create a huge issue. MOWPA has long advocated the “Septic”

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Ellicott City, MD 21041-2570  
(443-570-2029)  
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side of the BRF needs more money as the need and usage increases. This situation shines a bright light on this. We have advocated that sewer hookups should come from the “Sewer” side of the Bay Restoration Fund. These properties will belong to that side after they are hooked up. The “Sewer” side can absorb the cost with less impact, long range, due to the continuity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades.

### **Conclusion**

MOWPA feels that there are many properties in Maryland that are in need of assistance for OSDS/septic system upgrades. Most can be repaired with the availability of BAT and innovative dispersal systems. But some cannot. If Public sewer is available, they should receive assistance to be hooked up. There are some out there that sewer is not available, and current technology isn’t good enough. These properties fall to “Holding Tanks” that nobody wants. The OSDS industry would be able to help so many rural, middle to lower income property owners with slight shift of BRF funding.

MOWPA asks that the Committee give a **Favorable report with Amendments to HB24.**  
Amendment:

**ALL BRF FUNDED SEWER HOOKUPS BE FUNDED BY THE “SEWER” SIDE OF THE BAY RESTORATION FUND.**

(This amendment would be supported by many of the local Health Departments that I frequently speak with. It is a common subject matter.)

Thank you for your time  
Eddie Harrison  
MOWPA Legislative liaison  
9608B Fountain School Rd  
Union Bridge, MD 21791  
410-795-8691  
rdsefe@aol.com

## **HB 24\_realtors\_fwa.pdf**

Uploaded by: William Castelli

Position: FWA



**House Bill 24 – Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

The Maryland REALTORS® support HB 24 with a recommendation to fund the connection to municipal sewer through the portion of Bay Restoration Fund used to upgrade wastewater treatment plants rather than the current septic account.

HB 24 would allow communities with failing systems which: are located in low-income areas as determined by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE); have a household income of up to \$300,000; and are located near an existing sewer main to connect to that main regardless of the level of nutrient removal.

While most of the money from the Bay Restoration fee for septic is used to fund septic upgrades to properties in Maryland's Critical Areas, not all of the money is used for septic. Forty percent of the funds are dedicated to cover crops. Lesser amounts are used to help properties connect to sewer connections to wastewater plants with enhanced nitrogen removal.

Given that many counties run out of money for septic upgrades under the existing funding formula, HB 24 should consider pulling additional money for sewer connections from the money used for wastewater treatment upgrades. As of 2023, the Wastewater Treatment Plant fund had collected over \$1.6 billion in revenue compared to \$240 million for the septic fund. As Maryland nears completion of many wastewater projects, there will likely be more opportunity in funding from that account.

The REALTORS® believe that sewer connections are more consistent with the use of funds under the wastewater treatment portion of the fund and that more money is available for new uses.

**For more information contact [lisa.may@mdrealtor.org](mailto:lisa.may@mdrealtor.org) or  
[christa.mcgee@mdrealtor.org](mailto:christa.mcgee@mdrealtor.org)**



## **HB 24 - CBF - UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Allison Colden

Position: UNF



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## House Bill 24

### Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility

Date: February 5, 2025

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**

From: Gussie Maguire,  
MD Staff Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** HB 24, which extends use of the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) to include connecting septic users to any existing wastewater treatment facility, regardless of that facility's caliber of nutrient removal technology. Whatever circumstance this bill is intended to address, passage would set a precedent that would risk oversubscribing the BRF and leaving the state short of resources to continue upgrading and maintaining wastewater treatment infrastructure.

The BRF collects fees from sewer and septic system users to pay, in whole or in part, for practices that reduce nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. Projects may include: updating major and minor wastewater treatment facilities, updating failing and outdated septic systems to those with the best available nutrient removal technology, investing in community sewerage treatment facilities to replace multiple individual septic systems, and connecting properties to existing municipal wastewater treatment facilities that are achieving high levels of nutrient removal. Critically, these practices result in a higher level of wastewater treatment and a net decrease of nutrient pollution in the state's waterways.

Under this bill, an individual with a properly designed, maintained, and functioning septic system would be able to request funding to instead connect to a wastewater treatment plant that may not meet modern treatment standards. The Bay Restoration Fund has been a tremendously effective tool to reduce nutrient pollution through investment in more effective wastewater treatment practices. As technology continues to evolve and existing systems age, it is critical to maintain the availability and effectiveness of the BRF to deal with the most critical needs.

### **CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 24.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

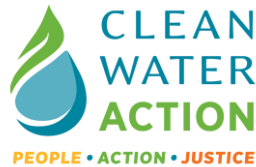
Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

# **HB24\_CWA\_ARF\_ShoreRivers\_Oppose.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elle Bassett

Position: UNF



## **HB24: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility**

House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 5, 2025

Position: Oppose

Arundel Rivers Federation, Clean Water Action, and ShoreRivers appreciate the need that has led to HB 24, but must respectfully oppose this proposed solution.

All across Maryland, there are neighborhoods that are on failing septic systems that desperately need addressing. These septic hotspots are oftentimes in areas that would not be approved for a septic system today, due to proximity to sensitive features, small lots, and poor soils.

The state needs to figure out what to do with these hot spots, whether that be connection to a wastewater treatment plant, creating community septic, or other solutions that may be applicable.

However, we cannot support the precedent that more sewer lines will be connected to a non-compliant wastewater treatment plant. This could set a dangerous precedent that could threaten both our local environment and human health. This committee recently heard during the State of the Bay briefing that nitrogen loading saw millions of pounds of nitrogen increase in 2021 and 2022 due specifically to significant non-compliance at several large municipal WWTPs including Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. This bill as drafted contains no guardrails for which WWTPs can receive added loads, potentially greenlighting additional nutrient loading to enter the Chesapeake Bay from non-compliance WWTPs.

While we understand the intent of HB24 and the need to address failing septic system communities within the state, solving the immediate problem for one community would cause problems for others and create more long term problems.

For this reason, we oppose HB 24.

Sincerely,

Elle Bassett  
Arundel Rivers Federation  
elle@arundelrivers.org

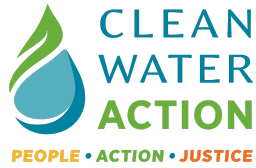
Emily Ranson  
Clean Water Action  
eranson@cleanwater.org

Annie Richards  
ShoreRivers  
arichards@shorerivers.org

# **HB24\_CWA\_ARF\_ShoreRivers\_Oppose (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Emily Ranson

Position: UNF



## **HB24: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility**

House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 5, 2025

Position: Oppose

Arundel Rivers Federation, Clean Water Action, and ShoreRivers appreciate the need that has led to HB 24, but must respectfully oppose this proposed solution.

All across Maryland, there are neighborhoods that are on failing septic systems that desperately need addressing. These septic hotspots are oftentimes in areas that would not be approved for a septic system today, due to proximity to sensitive features, small lots, and poor soils.

The state needs to figure out what to do with these hot spots, whether that be connection to a wastewater treatment plant, creating community septic, or other solutions that may be applicable.

However, we cannot support the precedent that more sewer lines will be connected to a non-compliant wastewater treatment plant. This could set a dangerous precedent that could threaten both our local environment and human health. This committee recently heard during the State of the Bay briefing that nitrogen loading actually saw millions of pounds of nitrogen increase in 2021 and 2022 due specifically to significant non-compliance at several large municipal WWTPs including Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. This bill as drafted contains no guardrails for which WWTPs can receive added loads, potentially greenlighting additional nutrient loading to enter the Chesapeake Bay from non-compliance WWTPs.

While we understand the intent of HB24 and the need to address failing septic system communities within the state, solving the immediate problem for one community would cause problems for others and create more, long term problems.

For this reason, we oppose HB 24.

Sincerely,

Elle Bassett  
Arundel Rivers Federation  
[elle@arundelrivers.org](mailto:elle@arundelrivers.org)

Emily Ranson  
Clean Water Action  
[eranson@cleanwater.org](mailto:eranson@cleanwater.org)

Annie Richards  
ShoreRivers  
[arichards@shorerivers.org](mailto:arichards@shorerivers.org)

# **MDE HB24 OPP.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jeremy Baker

Position: UNF





**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 24***

***Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Connection to Existing Municipal Wastewater Facility***

**Position:** Oppose  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Date:** February 5, 2025  
**From:** Alex Butler, Deputy Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB 24.

**Bill Summary**

The bill amends the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) statute to allow Septic Upgrade Account funds to be used for the cost of connecting a property in a low-income area that is using an on-site sewage disposal system (OSDS) to an existing municipal wastewater treatment facility, without regard to the level of treatment available at that facility. This new eligibility would only be available if the household currently served by the OSDS to be replaced is located in a low-income area as determined by MDE, has a household income of up to \$300,000 per year, and is located adjacent to an existing sewer main.

**Position Rationale**

The proposed changes to septic-to-sewer connections and Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) eligibility raise several concerns:

- Removing conditions for septic-to-sewer eligibility may undermine Maryland's comprehensive planning and smart growth policies, potentially conflicting with other state laws.
- The bill allows funding connections to wastewater facilities not meeting enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) or biological nutrient removal (BNR) standards, potentially failing to improve treatment levels and environmental outcomes.
- The term "low-income area" is undefined, and ambiguities in household income requirements could create confusion.
- The bill does not clarify whether properties or households must be in low-income areas. It is unclear whether adjacent properties must connect due to past exclusions, such as the Southern Kent Island project.
- Updates to BRF regulations, including definitions and funding priorities, will be required. Coordination with other pending legislation affecting the same statute is necessary to prevent conflicts.

MDE is willing to discuss potential funding options and strategies for specific communities in need that do not currently qualify for BRF funds. However, as drafted HB 24 raises significant policy concerns regarding well-established environmental goals, planning policies, and equitable funding distribution.

Accordingly, MDE asks for an **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB 24.

**Contact:** Alex Butler, Deputy Director of Government Relations  
Email: [alex.butler@maryland.gov](mailto:alex.butler@maryland.gov)