



St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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March 26, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Testimony in Support of HB 600**
St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation 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The proposed revisions will serve three primary purposes: **(1) Section 113-2** increases the outdated minimum bond required (from \$25,000 to \$250,000) for the Corporate Treasurer in accordance with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) established insurance limits and current practice to protect against individual fraud by the person serving in that role; **(2) Section 113-5** replaces an outdated local provision to reflect current practice regarding public hearings for new facilities and plans proposed outside the identified service areas of the locally managed and adopted Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan (CWSP). This change will help MetCom assist the County in addressing problem areas such as failing private well and septic systems. Areas to be served within the approved service areas already require studies, plans and estimates to be processed thru a publicly vetted process. **(3) Section 113-21**. Although MetCom prefers compliance over enforcement, the proposed text amendments are recommended in order to update the outdated \$100 fine provision to be consistent with the \$1,000 provision already codified in Section 113-21.B. and the MD Code - Public Utilities Article. Section 113-21B(3), includes the same \$1,000 provision, but in a graduated tiered structure to help deter and better address repeat violations by the same offender. And finally, Section 113-21B(4), provides an additional enforcement provision to help address multiple violations by the same offender. Specifically, with respect to the theft of public water supply which is becoming somewhat problematic, resulting in millions of gallons of unaccounted for water (UAW) which is not all attributable to leaks and breaks.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written 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 Todd Morgan
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Commissioners of St. Mary's County
George A. Erichsen, Executive Director, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
R. Christopher Beaver, General Counsel, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission