



Senate Bill 719

Sewage Sludge – Per – and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances - Regulation

Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Date: February 20, 2026

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

Worcester County opposes Senate Bill 719 in its present form as it is in need of amendments in several areas. It needs to be workable and executable with the present infrastructure of the state's wastewater plants and their contractors in a timetable that is achievable. It also needs to be affordable. Not all utilities in the state are of a size where costs can continually be rolled upon the consumers. For smaller utility districts, we have affordability concerns as the baseline of cost impacts for this change will be very impactful to their overall bill.

As a member of the Maryland Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (MAMWA), we understand that agencies across the state are monitoring this legislation and have differing levels of exposure to law changes with respect to this bill. We do support the overall theme that the bill must be fiscally reasonable for the state's wastewater agencies as we are passive receivers and not generators of these PFAS compounds in our plant sludges. From additional storage costs to land application restrictions, the bill's requirements create financial impacts to our service areas and their ratepayers. We cannot put unreasonable costs onto our water and sewer customers when they are simultaneously facing inflationary increases in other areas. Thank you.