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**HB 1444 – Information Only
Washington County – On-Site Sewage Disposal System Regulations – Exemptions**

Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Eddie Harrison, and I serve as Legislative Liaison for the Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (MOWPA). MOWPA represents a broad range of professionals in Maryland's onsite wastewater industry, including installers, pumpers, engineers, inspectors, operation and maintenance providers, and code officials.

I serve in this role on an uncompensated basis and am currently Vice President and a former Board President of MOWPA. Professionally, I own BAT Onsite, LLC, an operation and maintenance company specializing in advanced onsite wastewater systems, including BAT units, pump systems, mound systems, and drip dispersal systems regulated under 5,000 gallons per day. I currently maintain more than 500 systems statewide and have worked in this industry since 1984 in capacities that include installer, pumper, designer, inspector, and maintenance provider.

Statement:

Following discussion within our membership, MOWPA has identified several concerns regarding HB 1444. The intent of the bill is unclear, and key language—particularly the term “unduly burdensome”—is overly broad and open to interpretation. While MOWPA recognizes that repair and maintenance costs can be challenging for some property owners, particularly in lower-income situations, these considerations must be balanced against public health, environmental protection, and consumer safeguards.

MOWPA welcomes the opportunity to work with the bill's advocates to help clarify objectives and develop solutions that address these concerns while maintaining appropriate protections.

MOWPA respectfully defers to the Committee's judgment in addressing the issues raised by HB 1444.

Respectfully submitted,
Eddie Harrison
Legislative Liaison
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