

HB 1621: Wastewater Treatment Plants - Discharges - Monitoring, Reporting, and Requirements: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Environment & Transportation Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1621** during committee consideration or floor votes.

PFAS and hormones are increasingly detected in wastewater discharges across the country, with growing evidence linking them to serious health risks (cancer, reproductive issues, immune system effects, developmental harm) and environmental damage. Maryland's rivers, Chesapeake Bay tributaries, and drinking water supplies are particularly vulnerable. Current NPDES permits and voluntary monitoring are insufficient to track or control these contaminants at the level needed to protect communities.

This bill is a commonsense, proactive step: it mandates targeted monitoring and transparent public reporting so regulators, utilities, and citizens can understand exposure levels, identify problem facilities, and drive necessary upgrades. It does not impose immediate treatment mandates—only data collection and disclosure—but lays the foundation for evidence-based future action to safeguard water quality and public health.

In rural areas, where residents rely on groundwater, wells, and Bay-connected waterways, stronger oversight of wastewater discharges is essential to prevent contamination and protect families. I support **HB 1621** as a responsible, science-driven measure that prioritizes transparency and prevention without undue immediate burden.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1621** and help strengthen monitoring and reporting of harmful contaminants in Maryland's wastewater discharges.

Thank you for your attention to this critical public health, environmental protection, and water quality issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals