

St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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February 13, 2018

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environmental and Transportation Committee
Lowe House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Testimony in Support of HB 275**
St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission


Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

At the May 23, 2017 joint meeting between the Commissioners of St. Mary's County ("CSMC") and Metropolitan Commission ("MetCom"), it was agreed to establish a Task Force to propose amendments to Chapter 113 – Sanitary Districts of the St. Mary's County Code. Following the selection process for the citizen members, the initial meeting of the Task Force was conducted on July 12, 2017. The 14 member Task Force met no less than twice monthly. Meeting times and dates were posted (*onsite and webpage*) and distributed to the media / County PIO and minutes of the Task Force meetings were posted on MetCom's Public Meetings web page.

This proposed legislation within this bill represents amendments that were unanimously recommended by the Task Force on 10-4-2017, endorsed by the Health Department on 9-29-2017, Metropolitan Commission on 11-7-2017, and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on 11-7-2017. The Bill provides the organization with additional flexibility to better serve the citizens of St. Mary's County and includes, but is not limited to the following : allows debt payments to be made more frequently than semi-annually; updates procurement language consistent with current practices; provides financing alternatives and incentive programs for connections by existing developed residential properties; references the correct decision authority on failing systems to the appropriate regulatory authorities; allows capital contribution charges to be paid in installments rather than up-front; clarifies who is responsible for upgrades / expansions of private systems; reflects current practices with respect to joint projects between the CSMC and the MetCom; and helps streamline the County's Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan amendment process.

Thank you for the opportunity to present 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 Stephen Waugh
St. Mary's County Delegation
Metropolitan Commission
Commissioners of St. Mary's County