



St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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February 13, 2020

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 121**
St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission

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

We greatly appreciate the introduction of this Bill, which is a follow-up to the extensive efforts of a prior fourteen (14) member task force, of which Delegate Clark was an integral part. The prior HB 275 was signed by the Governor on April 10, 2018. The proposed legislation within HB 121 represents the balance of revisions that were recommended by the previous Task Force and supported by both the Metropolitan Commission and the Commissioner of St. Mary's County.

The non-substantive and clarifying revisions will: create a definitions section; consolidate Fee Exemptions into a single Section; establish consistent naming of the Metropolitan Commission and Commissioners of St. Mary's County; allow authority for a third party remedy/collections agency as an alternative/intermediate step to a possible tax sale; allow the Commission to serve remote areas and the authority to charge the corresponding service charges; add reference to all other water/sewer appurtenances under the jurisdiction of the Commission; provide consistent reference to the five-year capital improvement plan and annual budget; cross reference the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan, Subdivision Regulations and Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance; add authority to waive service charges or allow an extension of time to pay the charges because of financial hardship; include reimbursement of actual costs incurred (*i.e. time and materials*) if less than \$1,000 as an option to lessen administrative remedies; and address the Maryland Department of the Environment's 2-13-2018 comments raised during the FY 18 legislative cycle regarding the Planning Commission's review of the local capital improvement plan and budget.

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 John Bailey
Delegate Brian Crosby
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Commissioners of St. Mary's County
St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
R. Christopher Beaver, General Counsel, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission