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SB479

Environment – On-Site Wastewater Service -Regulations Education Health and Environment Committee

February 9, 2022

POSITION: IN FAVOR

Back River Pre-Cast, LLC (BRP) is a Maryland company that manufactures precast products including concrete products used for wastewater. And also install BAT septic systems.

Maryland currently does not have a statewide licensing board for the Onsite Wastewater industry to ensure the protection of the public from faulty workmanship. SB 479 is needed to provide that protection.

- A. There is a need for a licensing board for the Onsite Wastewater industry because currently:
1. there are no standards or regulations for the design, installation and/or maintenance of any onsite wastewater systems in Maryland,
 2. there is no means to provide for accountability to ensure proper design,
 3. there is no means to provide accountability to ensure proper workmanship with regard to installation and/or maintenance (improper/faulty workmanship causes a myriad of financial and environmental problems),
 4. there are no uniform statewide requirements for Onsite Wastewater Professionals,
 5. only some Maryland counties even require a license for installers,
 6. there is no requirement for continuing education as in other professions to keep up with changing technology and requirements,
 7. there are no regulations to safeguard the property, environmental and public health, and public welfare of the citizens of Maryland.

In conclusion, a licensing board is needed for the Onsite Wastewater industry to set regulations and standards and for oversight of the same. Having this licensing board will protect consumers, protect the integrity of our groundwater, and provide for the efficient and safe treatment of onsite wastewater.

A licensing board for the Onsite Wastewater industry would be no different than how numerous other industries have licensing boards currently in place. It is for these reasons that we are in favor of SB479

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Geckle
Vice President