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RE: HB318 and SB479; Environment - On-Site Wastewater Services - Regulation; In Support

Dear Assembly Member(s),

My name is Ryan Nagi, I am a regional service provider in Southern Maryland. I am in support of HB318 and SB479. I have been performing onsite sewage disposal system inspection for several years. I have also a licensed installer in Calver and Saint Mary's Counties and install in Charles County. I believe the proposed bill would benefit the industry in Maryland in a multitude of ways. The two most important benefits to approving the two bills, I believe, are providing more protection for consumers and accountability for industry professionals including continuity for onsite sewage disposal system inspections for property transfers in Maryland.

There have been several instances where I have been to an inspection and rated a component of a system in unacceptable condition shortly after another company rated it acceptable. This causes myself to have to explain that the previous inspector/company did not follow the recommended guidelines. Our company's OSDS inspection prices are the highest in our area due to our thoroughness and willingness to follow the recommended guideline. Knowing that the guidelines are only recommended many inspectors and companies in our area do not follow them. With consumer education the price differential has not hindered our ability to gain customers as some in the industry have suggested.

Not to long ago we encountered a system on a waterfront property that was inspected prior and the system was said to be in acceptable condition. When we performed our inspection, we found some fixtures in the home were discharged to a cesspool. This was only discovered by us pumping what was believed to be the septic tank. During the pump out liquid was filling the tank back up almost as fast as it was being pumped. Shortly after our inspection the homeowner hired a licensed septic contractor who did not pull permits. The contractor only installed a trench off the cesspool. I was told this situation was sent to Maryland Environmental Crimes.

These situations and lack of oversight could be prevented or at least lessened with proper laws and regulations in place. Please pass HB318 and SB479 to improve consumer protection and industry continuity.

S. Ryan Nagi

Owner

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