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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

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Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 392

Bill Title: Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program – Establishment

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023, Education, Energy, and the Environment

Greetings, Chair Feldman, Madame Vice Chair, and all members of the Committee

I write to urge you to support Senate Bill 392. Senate Bill 392 will establish the Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program for the purpose of providing competitive grants. Wastewater facilities owned by the State, a political subdivision, a municipal corporation, or another public entity will be eligible to apply for grants to enhance the facility's nutrient removal technology. Approving SB392 allows for the State of Maryland to assist the wastewater treatment facilities to prevent further damages in the future.

The purpose of the program is to support the State's Water Quality goals by providing competitive grants for publicly owned wastewater facilities facing staffing shortages, maintenance backlogs, and other hardships that threaten the functioning of enhanced nutrient removal technology. Over time our wastewater treatment facilities have gained attention due to the challenges we've faced. It is evident that there are discolorations, raw sewage, and poor conditions in our Chesapeake Bay. If the proper precautions are not taken, it could result in a negative effect on our children, the cleanliness of our water, and the safety of our community.

In the event of Senate Bill 392 being approved, each proposal shall include the following:

- A description of the operations and maintenance challenges facing the wastewater facility
- An explanation of the measures the facility intends to implement to address operations and maintenance challenges
- Demographic information regarding the users served by the facility.
- Any other information required by the Administration.

If approved, implementation begins in the fiscal year of 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter. The governor shall include the annual budget bill with an appropriation of 10,000,000 for the program. If enacted Senate Bill 392 will ensure safer water systems and grant the proper technology for our community.

For years we have applied temporary fixes that have led to more damage in our system. It is imperative to protect our residents and our future civilization by making the proper adjustments to enhance our water quality. For these reasons I respectfully request your support with the progression of Senate Bill 392.

Respectfully,



Cory V. McCray
State Senator