



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 15, 2023

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 483, *Private Well Safety Act of 2023*
Support

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 483, *Private Well Safety Act of 2023*. The bill creates a private well safety program that is administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The program provides grants to perform water quality monitoring and, if contamination is found, provide funding for remediation of the well or hook up to the public water supply. If adequately funded, MDE could provide grants to counties to cover the costs of implementing the program locally. If a county chose not to implement the program, residents of the county could apply for a grant directly from MDE. MDE would create a database with the results of water quality sampling that would be publicly accessible. Water quality monitoring of private wells is also required prior to the sale of property.

In December of 2002, two wells in the town of Poolesville were found to have per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) levels that exceeded the actions levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Although the Poolesville wells are a public water supply rather than a private well, it shows the vulnerability of ground water to contamination. Currently, the responsibility for assuring the safety of private drinking water wells falls totally on the property owner. This bill would provide needed financial assistance to property owners to test their wells and to remediate them if necessary.

I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee give Senate Bill 483 a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee