



Senate Bill 495

Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: February 11, 2020

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 495. This bill reasonably expands the authorized uses of the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) to include costs associated with the connection of a property using an on-site sewage disposal system to an existing municipal wastewater facility that has signed a funding agreement with the Department of the Environment and is under construction to achieve enhanced nutrient removal or biological nutrient removal level treatment.

Several counties have wastewater facilities that are in the process of upgrading but do not have the funds to complete the project due to lack of connections. This would provide needed support for connections to facilities intending to upgrade. The result is a preferable one for environmental outcomes, as in virtually all cases a connection to upgraded municipal facilities yields better pollution deterrence than upgraded on-site septic systems.

This bill would not change the amount of funds that are placed in the BRF but would sensibly expand the authorized uses of the Bay Restoration Fund to include costs associated with connecting a property to an existing municipal wastewater facility. For these reasons, MACo urges the committee to give SB 495 a **FAVORABLE** report.