



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SB 316 Anne Arundel County - Watershed Protection and Restoration Program - Exemption (Anne Arundel County Rain Tax Exemption Act of 2014)

POSITION: Oppose

BY: Arlene Gavin, Co-President

DATE: January 28, 2014

The League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County opposes an exemption of the storm water fee for the county.

A position adopted by Anne Arundel County LWV members in 1995 endorses planning and zoning that encourage “strong enforcement of existing land use controls (i.e. zoning, and storm water and sediment controls).” LWVAAC further supports goals to “expand and strengthen watershed management with storm water and sediment controls, using stronger enforcement of regulations and citizen participation.”

Storm water runoff is a serious problem for the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in Anne Arundel County, and remediation will be costly. The Anne Arundel County Council thoroughly considered how best to comply with the mandate of Maryland law. Our County Council determined a reasonable fee that would provide for a fund to deal effectively with managing storm water runoff within the county. The bill, defining the fee structure, was adopted by a 5-2 final vote.

We respectfully request an unfavorable report from the committee on SB 316.