



TESTIMONY TO THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COUNCIL

RE: Bill No. 90-19 – Public Works – Utilities – Partial Deferral of Residential Wastewater System Connection Charges and Assessments

POSITION: Support

DATE: December 16, 2019

BY: Alfa Stevens, President

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of efforts to protect air, land and water resources since the 1960's. The League of Women Voters has supported clean water initiatives to include the protection of our rivers and bays from pollution. Most recently adopted as one of our 2020 state legislative priorities is the protection of our environment to include ensuring safe water and clean waterways for all. For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of Anne Arundel County responds in support of the passage of Bill 90-19.

Currently, there are many Anne Arundel communities in the designated "Critical Area" bordering our waters with inadequate septic systems that are discharging nitrogen pollutants into our waters. These inadequate and leaking septic systems exacerbate the situation by polluting the drinking water, creating a health hazard. Reported statistics suggest that a septic system in normal repair contributes 32 milligrams of nitrogen per liter, whereas the Anne Arundel County sewer system contributes only 1.8 milligrams of nitrogen per liter to the rivers and Bay. While residents may desire to hook up to the County sewer system, the cost to do so is prohibitive.

We should all be good stewards of our environment and do all we can to protect our waterways from pollution and ensure safe and clean drinking water. In the interest of public health and in the interest of protecting our rivers and bay from nitrogen pollution, we believe that the allowance of a partial deferral payment program is warranted. In addition, reducing the amount of nitrogen leaked into the Bay will help us meet federal and state mandated pollutant load reductions (TMDLs).

We strongly support Bill 90-19, and respectfully urge the County Council to pass this bill.