



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Ulysses Currie, Chairman
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, Suite 3W
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 970 - Creation of a State Debt – Baltimore City – Long-Term Care at Stadium Place

Dear Senator Currie and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or “the Department”) has reviewed Senate Bill 970 - Creation of a State Debt – Baltimore City – Long-Term Care at Stadium Place. We would like to express our support for this bill.

The Stadium Place is a retirement community located in Baltimore City. This legislation calls for creation of a State Debt up to \$350,000 to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), for improvements to the Stadium Place water distribution system. This bill as proposed requires the grantee to provide 100% match, using non-state funds. Since October 2009, some residents and employees of the Stadium Place have experienced health related issues that could be attributed to the water distribution system serving the property. The Department concurs with the GEDCO's recommendation to improve the distribution system. It is imperative to have the improvements implemented as soon as possible, since the water quality, combined with the vulnerability of the elderly residents, place them at a higher risk to legionella and other infectious diseases associated with microbial contamination from drinking water.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 970 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at lnissley@mde.state.md.us if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissley

cc: Shari T. Wilson, Secretary
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy
Jay G. Sakai, MDE, Director, Water Management Administration