



**MARYLAND ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES, INC.**

August 6, 2012

Robert M. Summers, PhD
Maryland Secretary of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

RE: COMAR 26.04.02.01 - .12 (Septic System BAT Regulations)

Dear Secretary Summers:

This letter is to request a meeting with you and appropriate Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) staff concerning proposed regulations that would require the use of best available nitrogen removal technology (BAT) in certain septic systems.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) is not inherently opposed to an expansion of the use of BAT septic systems but did previously submit written concerns regarding specific issues raised by the proposed BAT regulations on July 2 to both MDE and the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR). A copy of those concerns is attached.

The BAT regulations are open to public comment through August 15 and MACo would like to meet with you prior to the closeout date. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss three areas of concern: (1) the scope of the regulations; (2) the cost of the regulations on county governments; and (3) local government implementation concerns. Hopefully, these concerns can be resolved prior to BAT regulations being finalized.

I hope to hear from you shortly and look forward to discussing the matter with you and your staff. Both Jay Sakai and Jay Prager have been responsive to previous inquiries from MACo and the county environmental health officers. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Knapp Jr".

Leslie Knapp, Jr.
MACo Legal and Policy Counsel

cc: Jay Sakai, Director, MDE Water Management Administration
Jay Prager, Deputy Program Administrator, MDE Water Management Administration

Attachments