

ROY DYSON

SENATOR

*Vice Chair*

Education, Health and  
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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September 26, 2007

St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners  
P.O. Box 653  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dear Commissioners:

I am responding to your August 7 letter pertaining to the adequacy of water supplies in Southern Maryland and most particularly, St. Mary's County. Adequacy of water supply in Maryland is a primary concern of the Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources.

As you may be aware, I am a member of this committee.

With the State's population expected to increase by more than 1.1 million residents by 2030, existing water challenges will exacerbate unless steps are taken now to address these concerns. The Committee will continue to develop appropriate recommendations as it completes its final year of deliberations before producing a final report due July 2008.

In its Interim Report published in July 2006, the Advisory Committee concluded that the State does not have the basic hydrologic and geologic data to support its water management program. The Advisory Committee recommended two regional studies to address this very basic issue, one encompassing the area served by the Coastal Plain aquifers, the other covering the fractured rock aquifers of Central and Western Maryland.

The Coastal Plains aquifers study is very important to our region. This study will document the geologic and hydro geologic characteristics of the aquifer system, and develop tools to facilitate sound management of the ground water resources in the Coastal Plain. The project was initiated in 2006, and funding source to complete the eight-year study. The Advisory Committee has repeatedly recommended support for this study, along with the fractured rock study. It is imperative to have this basic information to effectively manage Maryland's water resources.

The Advisory Committee also recommended expansion of the surface and ground water monitoring networks, an essential component of the water management program. No

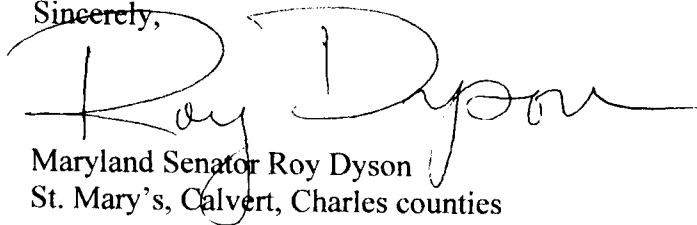
funding has been provided for either the monitoring networks or the aquifer study in the hard rock area. To implement and continue these necessary studies, local governments must collectively and aggressively give their support to obtain the necessary funding; without it, the management program will simply not be able to meet the coming challenges.

I appreciate the opportunity to update you on the status of the Advisory Committee's work.

By copy of this letter, I have asked the Department of the Environment to respond to the more technical issues you have raised and suggest that perhaps a briefing session for the commissioners would be useful. I want to address the broader issue of what is necessary to assure that water will be available to meet our needs.

I trust this information will be useful to you. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roy Dyson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Maryland Senator Roy Dyson  
St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles counties