

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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May 14, 2008

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

Reference: Proposed Changes to the County's Plumbing Code.

Dear Commissioners:

The Commission on the Environment and the Water Policy Task Force are aware that changes to the County's Plumbing Code have been presented to you. We would like to take this opportunity, during the official public comment period, to support adoption of the new changes particularly as they pertain to the that portion of the Code which, for the first time, provides for and permits use of gray water in building designs. A copy of the letter the Commission forwarded to the Plumbing and Gas Board supporting the gray water concept has been attached for your review. It outlines why gray water systems should be permitted and encouraged in the County. Additionally, the gray water concept is consistent with the County's updated Comprehensive Water & Sewer Plan and will support focusing growth in the Development District and Town & Village Centers.

The Commission firmly believes that, over the long term, maximizing use of gray water for as many purposes as possible will significantly reduce potable water demands from our stressed aquifers and will also benefit the Bay by lowering the amount of treated effluent released into it.

We encourage your approval of the gray water concept for the County contained in the proposed Plumbing Code as another important step in achieving environmentally responsible and sustainable growth.

Sincerely,



John (Barne) Wheeler  
Chairman, Commission on the Environment  
Chairman, Water Policy Task Force

1 enclosure:

Gray Water Letter from the Commission on the Environment to the County Plumbing & Gas Board