



Martin O'Malley, Governor

September 13, 2013

The Honorable Tari Moore
County Executive
County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard
Elkton, Maryland 21921

Re: Septic Tier Mapping

Dear Executive Moore:

We are writing to follow up on our August 16th discussion about the County's septic tier map. We appreciate your desire to improve your current map. However, as we have discussed and per the Department of Planning's (MDP's) official comments last winter, your current map does not meet the mapping criteria of the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act (SB236).

Our review of the County's new draft maps we received at MACO indicates that they do not meet the mapping criteria in the law either. The maps designate areas as Tier 3 that the law requires to be in Tier 4, including priority preservation areas, rural legacy areas, areas zoned for agricultural protection and areas protected by conservation easements or covenants. We are concerned about the wide gap between the Tier 4 area required by SB236 and what the County has designated (see attached map). While we remain ready to assist you and your staff in drafting a map that is consistent with SB236, if these issues are not resolved, we will need to take appropriate steps to ensure compliance with State law, including, if necessary, disapproval of major subdivision plats in Tier 3 areas that do not comply with SB 236.

We are definitely interested in meeting with you again to discuss the maps in an effort to come to agreement on an acceptable Tier map for Cecil County. Please contact Bob Summers at 410-537-4187 or by email at robert.summers@maryland.gov or Richard Hall at 410-767-4500 or by email at RHall@mdp.state.md.us to schedule a meeting or if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary, MDE

Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP
Secretary, MDP

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cc: Robert Hodge, President, County Council
Alan McCarthy, Vice President, County Council
Joyce Bowsbey, County Council Member
Michael Dunn, County Council Member
Diana Broomwell, County Council Member
Stephanie Garrity, Cecil County Health Officer
Alfred C. Wein, Jr., Director of Administration