

Town of Chestertown



118 N. Cross Street, Chestertown, MD 21620
tel: 410-778-0500 fax: 410-778-4378
email: office@chestertown.com
url: www.chestertown.com

Mayor
Chris Cerino
Council
Elizabeth Gross
Linda C. Kuiper
Samuel T. Shoge
Mauritz Stetson
Town Manager
William S. Ingersoll

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Senator Stephen Hershey
James Senate Office Building
Room 420
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Local Courtesy Bill for protection of Chestertown's public water supply

Dear Senator Hershey:

In follow up to Chestertown's prior correspondence (December 1, 2015) and request for the introduction of a local courtesy bill during the 2016 General Assembly session for purposes of protecting the Town of Chestertown from damages resulting from the oil spill in the mid-1980s and the remediation action/inaction by the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown (UMMS), this narrative is proposed for bill drafting purposes:

Oil Discharge - Groundwater Contamination Impacting the Public Water Supply and Waterworks of the Town of Chestertown

The bill would require the State of Maryland, upon a finding that specified contaminants have migrated further into any monitoring well, sentinel well or any production well jeopardizing the Town's water supply sources, to hold the Town of Chestertown harmless from all costs for cleanup, corrective action and treatment in order to provide safe and affordable drinking water to Town residents and businesses, without disruption of this essential public service. The scope of protection for the Town includes the State's responsibility for establishing an alternative public water supply source(s) (i.e., a new well field, treatment and distribution facilities).

The expectation of contamination of the Town's public water supply will be exacerbated by the suspension of a pump and treat remediation operation that has successfully held in place the fuel oil spill at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown. In addition, a revised treatment technology involving an innovative surfactant known as Ivey-sol imperils the Town's water supply if not properly removed.

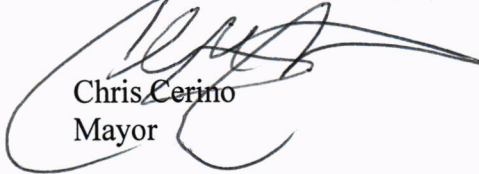
The immediate availability of funding to the Town, from a specified State funding source, would be triggered upon the detection of specified contaminants, including total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH), diesel ranged organic (DROs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Ivey-sol surfactant and constituents associated with a fuel oil spill, in any monitoring well, sentinel well or any Town production well.

The contaminant levels specified in the bill are the same as those currently defined as “levels of concern” in current MDE regulations. Under current regulations, if the concentration of fuel oil constituents in site groundwater sampling and testing is equal to or greater than the levels of concern, the concentration amounts must be reported to MDE within 24 hours and a corrective action plan is required.

The person responsible for the release of fuel oil is liable to any other person for any damage to real or personal property directly caused by the release, including contamination of the Town’s water supply. From the responsible party the State can seek reimbursement for any funding that may be provided to the Town pursuant to this bill.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

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Chris Cerino
Mayor



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January 15, 2016

The Honorable Delegate Steven Arentz
House Office Building
Room 308
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Local Courtesy Bill for protection of Chestertown's public water supply

Dear Delegate Arentz:

In follow up to Chestertown's prior correspondence (December 1, 2015) and request for the introduction of a local courtesy bill during the 2016 General Assembly session for purposes of protecting the Town of Chestertown from damages resulting from the oil spill in the mid-1980s and the remediation action/inaction by the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown (UMMS), this narrative is proposed for bill drafting purposes:

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January 15, 2016

The Honorable Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
House Office Building
Room 410
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Local Courtesy Bill for protection of Chestertown's public water supply

Dear Delegate Ghrist:

In follow up to Chestertown's prior correspondence (December 1, 2015) and request for the introduction of a local courtesy bill during the 2016 General Assembly session for purposes of protecting the Town of Chestertown from damages resulting from the oil spill in the mid-1980s and the remediation action/inaction by the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown (UMMS), this narrative is proposed for bill drafting purposes:

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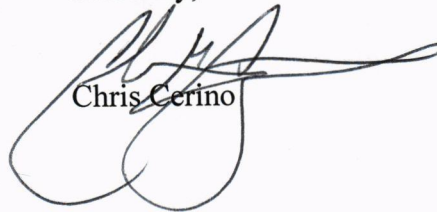
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January 15, 2016

The Honorable Delegate Jay A. Jacobs
House Office Building
Room 321
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Local Courtesy Bill for protection of Chestertown's public water supply

Dear Delegate Jacobs:

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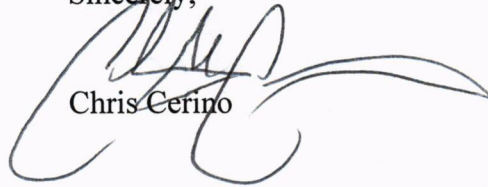
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