



TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL for SOUTHERN MARYLAND

*Working Together to Build
One of America's Great Communities*

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Wm. Daniel Mayer, Chairman

October 7, 2004

David M. Jenkins, Executive Director

The Honorable Thomas Dernoga, Chairman
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4290

Dear Mr. Dernoga:

The purpose of this letter is to express our concerns about the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) presented September 22, 2004 by the staff of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

The Maryland General Assembly created the Tri-County Council Maryland in 1965. Our enabling legislation states that the Council "shall operate as the cooperative planning and development agency within Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, to foster the physical, economic and social development of the tri-county area; and initiate and coordinate plans, projects for the development of human and economic resources of the Southern Maryland region as a Southern Maryland planning and development agency." The Council's coordination role in MWAQC clearly supports our legislative mandate.

The current Bylaws clearly define the roles of Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCC), Calvert and Charles Counties in this very complex multi-state and agency air quality planning process. The current Bylaw language regarding Southern Maryland was written after intensive negotiation and discussion, with participation and approval of Maryland State officials, the Calvert and Charles Boards of County Commissioners and their respective State Senators and Delegates to the Maryland General Assembly. TCC's coordination role in the MWAQC process with our member counties has been productive and effective. They depend of our participation to provide information and objective analysis. The current Bylaws have been in place for more than ten years. We believe it would be very counter-productive and unwise to make those changes in the Bylaws.

CALVERT COUNTY

Commissioner D. F. Hale
Commissioner L. L. Kelley
Commissioner G. W. Clark
Commissioner W. H. Parran
Commissioner S. Shaw
Robert L. Swann

DISTRICT 27

Senator T. V. Miller, Jr.

DISTRICT 27A
Delegate J. E. Proctor, Jr.
Delegate J. F. Vallario, Jr.

DISTRICT 27B
Delegate G. W. Owings III

CHARLES COUNTY

Commissioner M. D. Levy
Commissioner R. J. Fuller
Commissioner W. Cooper
Commissioner W. D. Mayer
Commissioner A. R. Smith
John T. Parran, Jr.

DISTRICT 28

Senator T. M. Middleton
Delegate W. L. Hennessy
Delegate S. Jameson
Delegate V. T. Mitchell

SO. MD. MUNICIPAL ASSOC.
Mayor Warren A. Bowie

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Commissioner T. F. McKey
Commissioner K.R. Dement
Commissioner L. D. Jarboe
Commissioner T. A. Mattingly, Sr.
Commissioner D. H. Raley
Mary Lynn Stone

DISTRICT 29

Senator R. P. Dyson

DISTRICT 29A
Delegate J. F. Wood, Jr.

DISTRICT 29B
Delegate J. L. Bohanan

DISTRICT 29C
Delegate A. J. O'Donnell

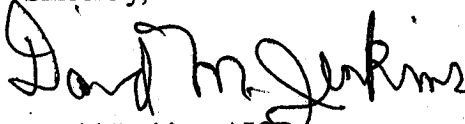
Senator Thomas Mac Middleton was a previous chair of MWAQC when he was President, Charles County Board of Commissioners. Senator Middleton and other elected officials from Southern Maryland have been actively involved with the air quality conformity activities with MWAQC since the early 1990s. We, as a region, have contributed more than our fair share into this multi-state effort for more than ten years. The Council's role is now more important as ever, because Southern Maryland is the fastest growing region in the State, with Calvert and Charles counties the fastest growing counties in Maryland.

Both Calvert County and Charles County also have concerns regarding the proposed Bylaws changes and will provide their specific concerns.

We would then request your reconsideration of these changes. It is important to our members, the elected officials of Southern Maryland and the region's citizens that the Council continues to perform its legislative mandate.

If you have any question regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,



David Jenkins, AICP
Executive Director

Cc: Commissioner William Daniel Mayer, Chair, Tri-County Council
James Allman, Calvert County Administrator
Eugene Lauer, Charles County Administrator
Marsha Kaiser, MDOT
George Tad Aburn, MDE