

8404 Aveley Manor Lane

Easton, MD. 21601

January 18, 2021

BY EMAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS:

Benjamin H. Grumbles, Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230

RE: MDE's Action Required Urgently

Dear Secretary Grumbles:

MDE is aware that two-and-a-half months ago the Talbot County Planning Commission determined that the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan amendment expressed in Resolution 281 (pertaining to the Lakeside development in Trappe) is NOT consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan in certain important respects. I delivered a copy of the Commission's letter to you on December 16th (attached here also), and MDE may well have been aware of that development even earlier.

As you know, Section 9-511 of the Environmental Article states that "Unless they conform to the county plan or revision or amendment of the county plan, the following systems and facilities may not be installed or extended: ... (2) A sewerage system..."

The developer of Lakeside continued, perhaps accelerated, construction of that project, including installation of sewer lines, in disregard of the Planning Commission's action, and MDE has taken no action to enforce the law prohibiting such work even though you have actual notice of the Commission's finding. Action by MDE is urgent, as there appears no other impediment to stop the developer from constructing and selling homes that discharge waste into a grossly inadequate sewer treatment system that pollutes our local tributaries.

Inaction by MDE that enables the sale of a single home to a third party that is connected to the sewer system in violation of the Planning Commission's recent finding will inevitably complicate the legal and regulatory situation enormously.

With due respect, the citizens of Talbot County call on the Department to take immediate action as required by Section 9-511 of the Environmental Article to see that no further construction of sewer lines is permitted, and that the existing connection to the Trappe wastewater plant, which violates the Planning Commission's finding, is promptly removed. Any future actions taken by the Talbot County

Planning Commission and/or County Council can be evaluated by MDE if and as they occur, but a proper response to the Commission's November 3rd determination is overdue.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Dan Watson.

CC: D. Lee Currey, Director, Water and Science Administration
Suzanne Dorsey, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of Environment
Les Knapp, Program Manager, Maryland Department of Environment
Brian E. Frosh, Maryland Attorney General