

CHARLES J. OTTO
Legislative District 38A
Somerset and Worcester Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 11, 2020

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Ms. Mary Phipps-Dickerson
Maryland Department of the Environment
407 Race Street
Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Re: Chesapeake Utilities Pipeline Project (Wetland License No. 20-WL-0470) – Maryland Department of the Environment – September 17, 2020 Public Informational Hearing – Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Phipps-Dickerson:

I write in full support of the application filed by Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (“Chesapeake”) for a tidal wetlands permits related to Chesapeake’s planned construction of a line to extend natural gas to Somerset County. Chesapeake’s project will connect to an extension of the interstate gas line from Salisbury to the Somerset County line. Chesapeake will eventually serve natural gas to Eastern Shore Correctional Institute (ECI) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES).

This project will be extremely beneficial to Somerset County as a whole and will replace dirtier fuels currently being used by ECI and UMES. A summary of some of the environmental benefits created by introducing natural gas to Somerset County are as follows:

- 1) Beneficial for air quality in Somerset County.
- 2) 6.7 million pounds of CO2 reduction annually at the ECI and UMES.
- 3) Particulate Matter (PM) emissions will be reduced 99.5%.
- 4) At UMES, elimination of trucked in #6 fuel oil that currently powers the Central Steam Plant and #2 and propane used throughout the campus.
- 5) Eliminate 12 daily deliveries of wood chips by diesel truck to ECI.

Also, the economic benefits to Somerset County from natural gas utility service cannot be overstated. Somerset County, as one of the most economically disadvantaged counties in the state, needs the infrastructure investment and the ability to compete with other jurisdictions for companies to locate in Somerset, and employ Somerset County residents in a meaningful way.

It is my understanding that there are no negative environmental impacts related to the construction and operation of the natural gas pipeline through these wetlands. I am aware of similar pipelines that have

operated without any negative environmental issues. I ask that you approve this project permit and continue to support the citizens of Somerset County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles J. Otto". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Delegate Charles J. Otto