

1707 L St. NW, Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20036
202-207-3355

www.smartgrowthamerica.org

STATEMENT OF PARRIS N. GLENDENING IN SUPPORT OF SB 594 AND OPPOSED TO SB 330

February 21, 2011

Madame Chairman and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. I regret being unable to testify in person in support of the passage of SB 594 and against SB 330 but trust you will consider my statement on these bills. While serving as Governor, one of the major crises facing us in Maryland in 1997 was the outbreak of what was believed to be pfiesteria, a dinoflagellate that was causing serious illnesses in people and cancerous lesions in fish on the lower Eastern Shore.

Maryland seafood exports to other states were threatened as were people's health. We were able to gain passage in 1998 of the Maryland Water Quality Improvement Act, which required nutrient plans on most farms. Unfortunately, while we have made some progress, the health of the Chesapeake is still poor. People and fish are still affected by the excess nutrients flowing from farmland, developed lands, sewage treatment plants, septic tanks, and the atmosphere.

Senators Frosh and Pinsky's bill, SB 594, would mandate better management of the hundreds of thousands of tons of raw chicken, pig, and cattle manure that is put on farm land. SB 594 would require the same regulations required of treated human sludge, a position shared by our Senior Scientists and Policymakers for the Bay of which I am a member. The bill is a reasonable approach to protecting the bay's waters and our groundwater.

Since agriculture contributes 38% of the polluting nitrogen and 50% of the phosphorus and much of this comes from manure, I ask you to support this legislation.

Further, I oppose SB 330 which goes in the wrong direction by blocking any further regulation of agricultural pollutants.

Scientists and other members of our group will be testifying on these bills. I have authorized them to present this statement to you.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my comments.

Parris N. Glendening
Governor (1995-2003)