



## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Larry Hogan  
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May 6, 2015

George Loomis  
Research and Extension Soil Scientist  
Director, New England Onsite Wastewater Training Center  
University of Rhode Island  
001C Coastal Institute Bldg., NRS Dept.  
1 Greenhouse Rd.  
Kingston, RI 02881

Dear Mr. Loomis,

I am writing to express support for research into the impact that climate change or extreme climatic events have on on-site sewage disposal systems (OSDS). According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Maryland has 3,190 miles of coastline. There are greater than 50,000 homes served by OSDS located within 1,000 feet of tidal water. Climatic events that either reduce the unsaturated treatment zone necessary to treat OSDS effluent or that flood OSDS, contaminate both ground and surface waters. Our experience has shown that after extreme tidal surges, individual wells in coastal areas become contaminated, with some wells remaining contaminated for many months. Once again I express support for this important research.

Sincerely,

Jay Prager, Deputy Program Manager  
Wastewater Permits Program  
Maryland Department of the Environment

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