



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 47
OPPOSE
Education,
Health &
Environmental
Affairs
Committee
02/03/09**

SB 47

Environment - Permit Applications – Notice Requirements

Brief Summary of Bill:

Senate Bill 47 authorizes the Dept. of the Environment to require a permit applicant to send permit application notification by mail to residential property owners within a 2 mile radius of the activity/location for the permit. The applicant must bear all cost incurred by the Dept. for providing the notice.

Maryland Chamber's Position:

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce ("Maryland Chamber") opposes this bill. The Maryland Chamber understands the desire for enhanced communication regarding permit application notification. However, the process should not be overly burdensome for the applicant. In most areas of the state the applicant would experience substantial additional financial burden to fulfill the proposed notice requirements. A 2 mile radius is too expansive, and in large urban areas could result in thousands of notifications.

Additionally, permit issuance delay could occur if a person in the 2 mile radius claims to not have been notified, even if due to property transfer or tenant change during the process. Furthermore, contiguous property owners are generally the affected parties, yet such legislation could increase the number of non-aggrieved parties that may attempt to claim standing.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests that the Committee give Senate Bill 47 an unfavorable report.

If questions please contact Allyson Black, ablack@mdchamber.org