



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 672
OPPOSE
EHEA
Committee
03/03/09**

SB 672

Environment - Stormwater Management - Stormwater User Charge

Brief Summary of Bill:

SB 672 requires each county or municipality to establish a stormwater user charge.

Maryland Chamber's Position:

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill. SB 672 would essentially create a mandatory tax on impervious surface. The proposed tax does not include any maximum or guidance regarding how much the tax should be beyond the requirement that the tax rate on commercial properties must exceed the tax on residential properties. New taxing authority should never be delegated without limitations or guidance on rates.

Furthermore, local jurisdictions already have authority to establish fees on impervious surface if they deem it necessary. It is inappropriate to impose a mandatory tax, particularly when local jurisdictions currently have this authority. This legislation is unwarranted and unnecessary.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests that the Committee give SB 672 an unfavorable report.

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