

owners. The contribution comes through a modest annual property tax to pay off a long term bond for the needed sewer system.

PROPOSAL

Currently, it is very difficult to form a non-voluntary assessment area in the failing septic system neighborhoods, and extend sewer to these areas.

For creation of sewer assessment areas only, "adequate protest" requirements will increase from 40% to 70%. This higher requirement can only be used for public health and water source protections.

This bill will help extend sewer lines to address critical public health and safety concerns, will decrease the cost of sewer extensions per property, and will assist residents remain in their homes.

Currently, the "adequate protest" needed to prevent formation of a non-voluntary assessment area is, by law, 40% of the frontage, area, taxable value, fair market value, lots, number of connections, or equivalent residential units of the property proposed to be assessed, according to the same assessment method by which the assessment is proposed to be levied.

Therefore, in the hypothetical scenario above, where 10% of the systems are failing annually, it becomes very difficult to form a non-voluntary assessment area, and nearly impossible to extend sewer to these areas.

Support better long term community health and water quality.