



BILL NO.: Senate Bill 911
TITLE: Underground Facilities – Damage Prevention
POSITION: **SUPPORT**
DATE: April 8, 2010
COMMITTEE: House Economic Matters
CONTACT: Andrea Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 911. This bill would expand the role of Miss Utility to provide greater oversight of the marking of utilities and the enforcement of damage prevention laws. A proposed new entity, the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority, would enforce these laws and have the authority to assess civil penalties for a violation. The entity would also educate the public of the importance of marking underground utilities before digging.

As introduced, MACo expressed concerns with SB 911 as it removed local marking fee authority, imposed new mandates by requiring the marking of storm drains, and empowered a new entity with broad enforcement powers.

The amended bill maintains local marking fee authority, removes all references to the marking of storm drains, and ensures that local governments will not be charged or assessed a fee either directly or indirectly, for the operations of the newly established Authority.

MACo has worked extensively on these amendments with the industry representative and believes this amended bill is a good work product. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 911 and urges a **FAVORABLE REPORT**.