
MARYLAND
FORWARD
March 11, 2011

Progress toward a Healthier Chesapeake Bay

- **The Bay waters are now the healthiest they've been since 2002, and the Bay's blue crab and native oyster spat populations are rebounding, each reaching their highest levels since 1997.**
- **By 2020, Maryland's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) will reduce nitrogen pollution by roughly 10 million additional pounds per year.**
- **Last year, we planted a record number of cover crops, exceeding our 2011 goal by 23%, preventing more than 2.4 million pounds of nitrogen from entering our waterways.**
- **Maryland is leading all Bay states by having already achieved over 80% of its first 2-year milestone toward restoring the health of the Bay by 2020.**

Progress Undone:

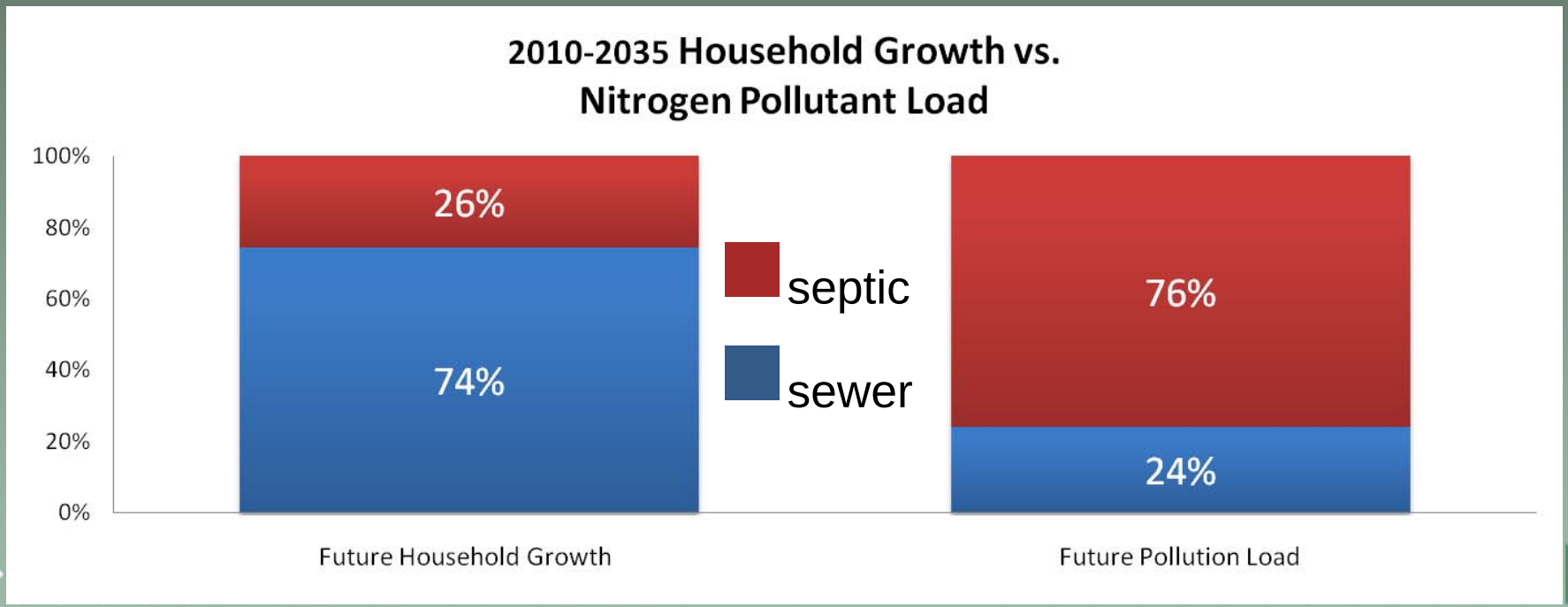
Increasing Septic Pollution Undermining Restoration Efforts

- **While we've made progress on limiting other Bay polluters, sewage from septic systems is seriously undermining that progress now and into the future.**
- **To comply with the EPA's Bay "pollution diet" Maryland must reduce nitrogen from its wastewater, urban runoff, septic systems, agriculture, and air pollution by 21% by 2020.**
- **All of our progress to date in reducing nitrogen pollution by retrofitting existing septic systems, including the State's investment of $32 million, has been completely undone by new septic system installation.**
- **From 1985-2009, while total nitrogen load *decreased* in Maryland by 37% as a result of everyone's efforts, nitrogen load from septic systems *increased* by 32%.**

Septic Pollution:

A Disproportionate and Unfair Impact

Over the next 25 years, new Maryland developments relying on septic systems are expected to account for only 26% of growth, but 76% of new nitrogen pollution. In other words, a quarter of the State's future growth will cause three-fourths of its future wastewater pollution.



Septic Sprawl is Harmful

The damage that septic systems cause isn't limited to the health of Maryland's Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay:

Septic Sprawl Undermines the Most Productive, Sustainable Growth and Kills Jobs

- **By essentially incentivizing the consumption of valuable farm and forest lands, current septic policy enables sprawl development which weakens Maryland's tourism, recreation, agriculture and forestry industries.**

Public Health Hazard

- **Nitrogen from even well-functioning septic systems can raise the nitrate level in groundwater, potentially contaminating drinking water.**
- **Failing septic systems can cause sewage to pool on the surface, exposing humans to disease.**

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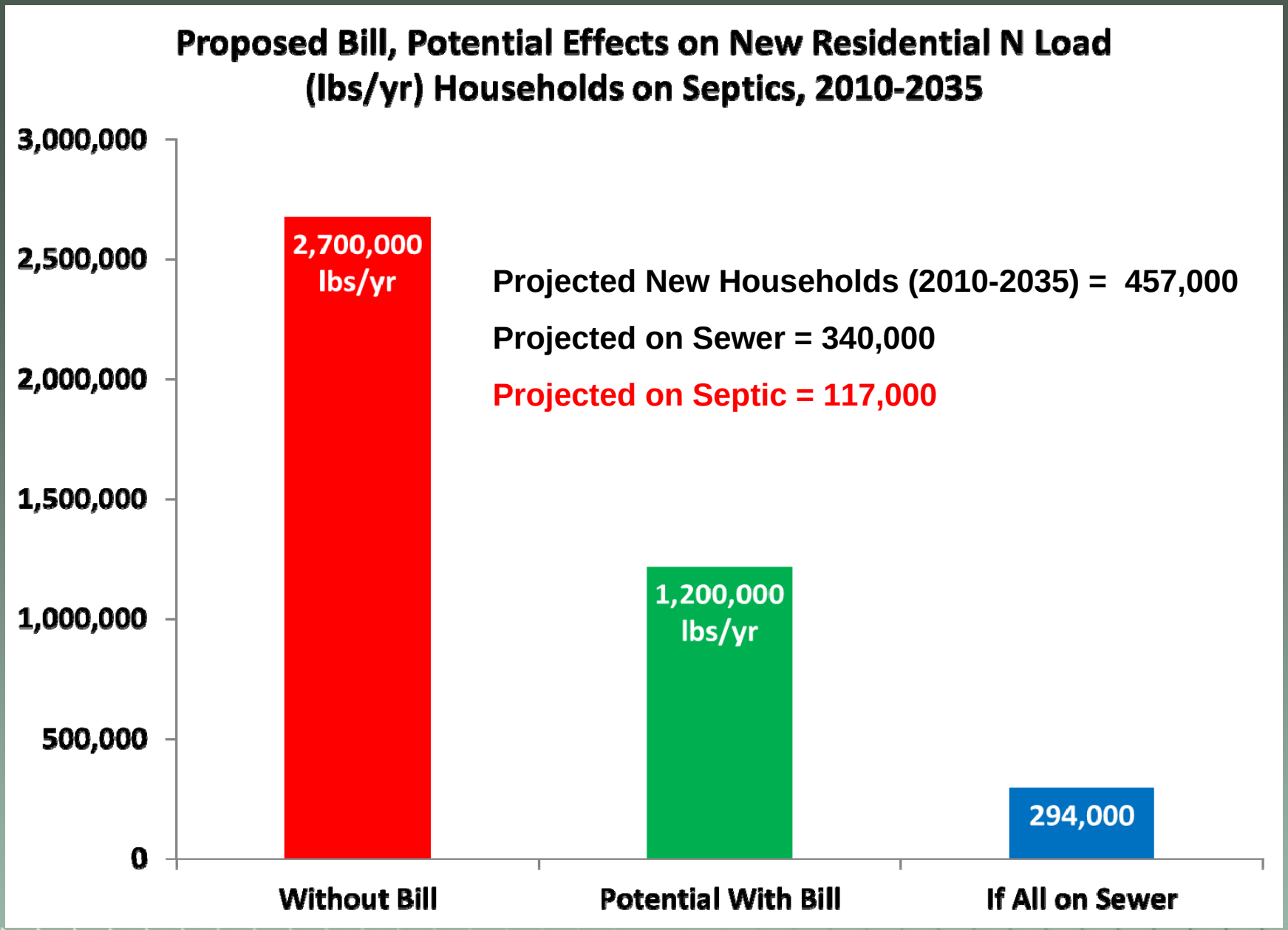
Septic Pollution:
The Cost of Doing Nothing

Nitrogen loads from new households in non-sewered areas are expected to increase 2.7 million lbs per year between 2010 and 2035. If we had to offset that amount by cutting pollution by other means it would be equivalent to doing one of the following:

- Retrofitting Maryland's 362,500 existing septic systems at a cost of $4.4 Billion.
- Planting 375,000 acres of additional cover crops per year at a cost of $22 Million annually.
- Retrofitting over 875,000 acres of urban land at a cost of $20,000-$50,000 per acre.
- Upgrading the largest waste water treatment plant in Maryland, Back River, which serves 2 million people, to ENR technology at an estimated cost of $500 million.

Excluding septic systems users from paying their fair share places an unjust burden on everyone else to make up the difference


Proposed Bill, Potential Effects on New Residential N Load (lbs/yr) Households on Septics, 2010-2035
3,000,000
2,500,000
2,000,000
1,500,000
1,000,000
500,000
0
2,700,000 lbs/yr
1,200,000 lbs/yr
294,000
Without Bill
Potential With Bill
If All on Sewer
Projected New Households (2010-2035) = 457,000
Projected on Sewer = 340,000
Projected on Septic = 117,000

Moving Toward a Solution

The Bill will prevent 1.5 million lbs in added nitrogen pollution, the equivalent of 38% of the restoration efforts required of Maryland Farmers under the EPA's 'pollution diet.' Without the Bill, other efforts to reduce pollution will be an added burden on Maryland's farmers.

Moving Toward a Solution

The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2011 limits water pollution, not growth.

- **The Bill is not looking to do away with septics, or force everyone on septics to hook up to sewer systems – rather it is designed to halt the further expansion of large housing developments on septic across Maryland's remaining rural and agricultural landscape.**
- **Several studies support the conclusion that the septic system Bill is unlikely to significantly compromise land values in Maryland's rural communities, because its unlikely to alter demand. In fact, agricultural land values have been climbing markedly in line with increasing global demand for food.**

Moving Toward a Solution

The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2011 limits water pollution, not growth.

- **The Bill prohibits new residential major subdivisions (5 or more new lots) from using on-site septic systems.**
- **The Bill allows new residential minor subdivisions (development on 4 or fewer new lots, 5 lots total) to use individual on-site septic systems if they use nitrogen removal technology.**
- **The Bill doesn't preclude new residential major subdivisions (5 or more new lots) to use shared or multi-use sewerage systems (above ground discharge).**

Moving Toward a Solution

Protecting Farms

- **A healthy Chesapeake Bay and preserved farm land will be worth billions of dollars in added jobs, income, property values, and business activity.**
- **Maryland's 12,800 farms support more than 19,000 Maryland jobs.**
- **By 2030, Septic sprawl will contribute to the loss of more than 312,000 acres of valuable farm land.**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