

your views

Prudent HRSD hikes

Re “Your sewer bill to triple,” front page, Dec. 17: While no one wants to see higher utility bills, the report on future increases in sewer rates for Hampton Roads omitted the array of important benefits these projects will provide for our region.

Hampton Roads Sanitation District facilities discharge to the waters where we live, play and harvest seafood. Faced with critical needs to upgrade aging infrastructure and remove pollution, HRSD has made a good business decision to initiate much-needed projects while interest rates and construction costs are low.

This will save money for ratepayers while also improving the health of our region’s waterways.

Continuing to put off the inevitable replacements and upgrades will result in more expensive upgrades and greater costs to rate-payers. Simply put, our region cannot afford to wait.

The upgrades to HRSD’s facilities will have multiple benefits for our region. These projects will create much-needed jobs for a variety of businesses, help our localities meet Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals and increase the health of our region’s local waterways, which, in turn, support vibrant tourism, fishing and shipping industries.

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