



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB460– Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

February 19, 2020

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT of SB460 – the Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act** - on behalf of ShoreRivers. ShoreRivers is a river protection group on Maryland’s Eastern Shore with 3,500 members. Our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education.

On the Eastern Shore, due to a combination of increasing development, sea level rise, and increasing frequency and intensity of rainfall, we are receiving **more and more citizen complaints of environmental violations** (e.g., unpermitted bank clearing in the Critical Area, sediment plumes associated with construction sites, and unpermitted shoreline work) that we report to the appropriate state or local agency. One small environmental violation can have a lasting harmful impact on our local waterways.

Unfortunately, our regulatory agencies do not currently have the resources to adequately enforce or address environmental violations on the Eastern Shore. We consistently document environmental violations with little to no meaningful enforcement actions. Tracking and following up on violations is time consuming for the public and the agencies. Overall, the lack of enforcement on the Shore is detrimental to Bay restoration efforts and to our communities.

**By creating an Ombudsman and clear reporting requirements, SB460 will provide an important resource to enforcement agencies, promote accountability, provide transparency to the public, and ultimately produce better outcomes for the Bay and our rivers.**

For these reasons, ShoreRivers urges the Committee to adopt a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB460**.

Sincerely,

**Tim Trumbauer**

Chester Riverkeeper, on behalf of:

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**ShoreRivers**

Jeff Horstman, Executive Director

Tim Trumbauer, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper  
Elle Bassett, Miles-Wye Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher, Sassafras Riverkeeper

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