
ORCHARD POINT OYSTER CO.

1220 Butterworth Court
Stevensville, MD 21666

RE: HB1434

MD House Environment & Transportation Committee:

This letter is written in support of HB1434. We sustainably raise oysters in Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties, on the Eastern Shore. This bill addresses some key issues that occur outside the realm of control of many leaseholders.

We have personally experienced some of the scenarios outlined in the bill and feel that by extending these reasonable grace periods/conditions to leaseholders, operations will not be adversely affected by shutdowns and/or fines. Given the geographic expanse of our operations, it creates challenges with strict adherence to current laws regarding corner markers. There are instances when storms or ice displace them, and logistically it takes time to replace/reset them. And perhaps most importantly, given the record level of precipitation in 2018, it helps address the industry-wide problem of seed unavailability. A scenario that can occur in any given growing season going forward.

Please consider a favorable vote on HB1434. It will allow the burgeoning aquaculture industry to continue to grow, without unnecessary burdens due to unforeseen and unwanted circumstances.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Scott Budden
President