

We call ourselves Wisner's Wonderkids: I'm Lilly Mason, I'm Rayne Zellner, I'm Colin Taylor, I'm Max Heisler, and I'm Tresten Reinke. We are 5th grade students from Chesapeake Public Charter School in Lexington Park, MD. We represent all children in the great state of Maryland.

Thank you for letting us be here today. We are very excited to share our desire for a State song for Children. We hope you enjoy our performance of the song and love it as much as we do.

We are "for" HB0180 which supports designating "The Land Mary-Land" as the State song for Children. We would like a song that represents us and we feel Tom Wisner's "The Land Mary-land" would be the perfect song for children to learn and sing together in schools all across Maryland.

We feel that our Maryland State song is difficult to learn and perform. However, we understand that it has important historical value for our state, so we wouldn't want to change that. We decided that adding a special Children's song would give kids a chance to sing an upbeat song about our wonderful state that is easy to learn. Our school is only a few minutes away from Historic St. Mary's City. The Land, Mary-Land speaks about the journey that the first settlers made to this spot in Maryland. One of our school's core virtues is perseverance and this song reminds us of how the colonists had to persevere so they could get to this beautiful place and live freely.

Did you know that twenty-four of our U.S. states have more than one state song? States such as Oklahoma have five different designated songs with one of them being a state children's song. Right now, Maryland only has one.

Tom Wisner had a big impact on Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay. He was often referred to as the "Bard of the Chesapeake." He dedicated his life to teaching children about the importance of protecting the Chesapeake

Bay. We believe that in the same way that The Lorax spoke for the trees, Tom Wisner spoke for the Bay. In our school, we have spent time learning about his passion for the Chesapeake Bay through his music. We feel that all children in Maryland should have this same opportunity. As the next generation of Maryland citizens, we need to carry the torch that he lit.

“The Land Mary-Land” is a perfect example of why Maryland is such a special state. We have the unique history of some of the first European settlers choosing this beautiful land to live a new life of freedom. Having a State song for children will teach them about this history and remind them of the legacy of Tom Wisner and why we all need to protect the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. This is why we feel strongly that it should be our State song for Children.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our thoughts with you. We hope you agree to vote yes for HB0180. It will be remembered by all the kids in Maryland for years to come!

Lyrics to The Land Mary-land

Oh the land, Mary-land will surely reveal a place to believe in the truth that we feel.

On the wings of the morning in the cup of his hand, we will carry our longing to the fair Mary-land.

Amid rope, tar and canvas, and torn from our past, in a dungeon of timber we pray we may last.

Through sickness and turmoil in search of our home, trust our conviction to the rolling white foam.

For the *Chorus*

She is rigged out and handsome, a maid of the sea, bound on a journey for humanity.

She'll sail through the morning to the great ocean wide, bearing the longing that is carried inside.

Chorus

Long before I was made in the depths of the earth, You knew of my longing and you fashioned my birth.

With a passion to journey out over the sea in search of a vision of the right to live free.

Chorus