



March 4, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chairman
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 925 –Workgroup on Public Water Access
Support**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

On behalf of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland, I am writing in support of SB 925 which will study and make recommendations regarding public access to Maryland waterways. The recreational boating industry is a \$3.5 billion industry in Maryland representing nearly \$18,000 jobs. With 3,190 miles of shoreline, our waterways and watersports are a big part of who we are and why people choose Maryland as their home.

Nationally, in 2020, boat sales were up by 12% and paddle sports such as kayaking which had faced declines before the pandemic increased 56%. There is no better time than now to study how we might better serve Marylanders with more public access to our waters.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Susan Zellers
Executive Director, MTAM

cc: Members, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee