



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 716

Patuxent River Commission – Membership

Date: February 23, 2022

To: Environment and Transportation

Position: **Support**

From: Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** HB 716 which adds the Patuxent Riverkeeper as a voting member of the Patuxent River Commission.

The Patuxent River Commission, formed four years after the 1980 Patuxent River Watershed Act sought to protect this important Maryland resource, envisions a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s.¹ The PRC includes the seven counties, the city of Laurel, and additional watershed stakeholders and interest groups.²

The PRC serves as a steward for the Patuxent River and commits to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance and restore river species as well as the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values in the watershed.³

The Patuxent Riverkeeper's mission is to conserve, protect and replenish Maryland's longest and deepest intrastate waterway.⁴ Through strategic advocacy, restoration and education our goal is long term sustainability for the ecosystem of the entire Patuxent River basin and the people who rely on its future.⁵

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has witnessed firsthand the Patuxent Riverkeeper's contributions to protecting and restoring the Patuxent River, and to strengthening and supporting a community of advocates within the Patuxent's watershed. It is clear that the Patuxent River Commission cannot fulfill its mission without the Riverkeeper's membership.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 716. For more information, contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at rclark@cbf.org or 443.995.8753.

¹ [Patuxent River Commission](#), Maryland Department of Planning, last visited February 20, 2022.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ [Patuxent Riverkeeper](#), last visited February 20, 2022.

⁵ *Id.*