

HB311 Support Mayor Mahoney.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrick Mahoney

Position: FAV



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Good Afternoon Honorable Delegates,

It is an honor to be here. I am Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney asking you all to support HB311.

A huge portion of our town population is retired or active military, First Responders and Peace Officers. We are a patriotic town.

I like to describe Chesapeake Beach this way:

As you drive into town, you see:

- the American Legion and flags on the left.
- Straight ahead is the beautiful vision of Veterans Park on the Chesapeake Bay, flags waving. Home to our WW2 Honor Roll and Vietnam War Memorial
- Take a left at the Bay and you see NBVFD, home to over 100 volunteer First Responders
- Take a Right at the Bay to the center of town and you have boating, fishing, crab houses, a Water Park, a resort and 3 gaming establishments. These attractions bring many hundreds of thousands of Marylanders every year who cross Fishing Creek Bridge to enjoy the amenities we have to offer. 94% of our visitors are from across the State of Maryland!

Fire trucks, ambulances, police vehicles also cross this bridge every day as well. But those men and women inside are not there to enjoy amenities. Their job is to protect Marylanders even if it puts their own lives at risk!

Please join our effort to pay tribute to those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice and support HB311.

Thank you

Mayor Patrick J. Mahoney

HB0311- TSO - Fishing Creek Bridge - LOI_FJNAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 311 – State Highway Administration – Fallen Heroes
Fishing Creek Bridge – Designation***

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 311 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 311 would require the MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) to designate the bridge across Fishing Creek on MD 261 in Calvert County as the Fallen Heroes Fishing Creek Bridge.

The MDOT has an established policy and procedure for roadway dedication or naming. Upon receipt of a dedication, naming or renaming request, the Maryland Department of Transportation gathers the appropriate information to present to the Maryland Transportation Commission (MTC). Such requests should include statements of support from local elected officials and state legislators, as well as statements showing broad community support. Upon review, the MTC then submits the request to the Secretary of Transportation for a decision.

House Bill 311 does not clarify the exact meaning of "designate," but the potential renaming of a State highway or any public road poses challenges and costs including: reprinting of maps, replacing signs along and beyond the immediate highway area, changing mailing addresses, difficulty in locating an emergency 911 services call based on an older road name, upgrading emergency and other government mapping systems, and confusion and potential costs with legal or real estate documents that reference a road name that no longer exists. For these reasons, the MDOT recommends the dedication process for a roadway or facility, as it visibly honors the requested individual, group, or entity with the appropriate signage and avoids the concerns enumerated above.

It should be noted that the Maryland Department of Transportation received a dedication request for Fishing Creek Bridge to be dedicated in honor of a local public servant who has since passed away. Both the MTC and the Secretary of Transportation approved the dedication request, and the MDOT SHA has been working to identify a safe and secure area to place the signage.

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
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The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 311.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
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