



House Bill 602

Environment – State Wetlands – Shoreline Restoration

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: February 22, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 602. This bill would provide additional resources for counties that are looking to advance shoreline restoration projects.

Maryland has one of the largest coastlines within the United States. The Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean shape the cultural and economic landscape of the state. Mitigating against erosion and sea level rise is both a fact of life and a critical function of state and local government.

HB 602 provides counties as well as other coastal landholders with additional resources to undergo shoreline restoration projects. Ironically for a state with such a vast coastline, there has been a historic lack of investment in shoreline restoration. This program represents the first step in sharpening a powerful tool to combat erosion and sea level rise.

HB 602 provides necessary additional resources in the fight to preserve Maryland's iconic coastline. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 602.