

RE: Senate Bill 207

Energy, Education and The Environment Committee

My name is Rahel Dean. I am the Secretary for the Calvert County Watermen's Association, and I am a Commissioner on the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and the Patuxent River Commission for the State of Maryland. Today, I am here as a seafood business owner. My family owns Patuxent River Seafood, and our business relies on the resources of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. Despite Maryland's best efforts, the invasive snakehead has become part of the Bay's ecosystem. Unfortunately, that means it is negatively impacting our native species. Between the snakehead and the blue catfish, the Patuxent River is suffering. I appreciate the hard work that the State of Maryland is doing to market snakehead, but it is still difficult to get anyone to eat a fish called a snake. That is unfortunate because snakehead rank just behind white perch as the best tasting fish in the Bay. Unless we can do something to convince people to eat more snakehead, these fish might just eat the competition out of house and home—literary. If we can rename the fish, it could help our cause, just like restaurants formerly used the terms "dolphin" on their menus but switched to "mahi mahi" to avoid confusion and outrage among guests. While Senator Bailey's efforts to rename the snakehead the Patuxent fish are a noble cause, it doesn't have a ring to it. A restaurant menu with Patuxent Tacos just doesn't sound right. I would like to offer a friendly amendment. The Bailey Fish. While I am by no means saying Senator Bailey shares the slimy, predatory characteristics of this fish, I do believe his contributions to the conservation of Natural Resources as a NRP Officer and now as a Senator warrant a fish be named after him. Besides, I think we can get behind fried Bailey, baked Bailey, Bailey tacos, and Bailey bites. I hope the sponsor of the bill will be willing to take this one for the team and cement Bailey fish on restaurant menus throughout Maryland.

Rachel Dean 301-672-3509
382 Dogwood Court/ Lusby, MD 20657
chesapeakefishing@juno.com

P.O. Box 507/Lusby, MD 20657