



Hon. Marc Korman
Chairman, House Environment & Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Korman:

The Chesapeake Watershed Restoration Professionals (CWRP) is a coalition of the primary businesses that implement watershed practices to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Altogether, we comprise thousands of Marylanders employed in careers that invest in the environment here on the ground in the Bay region; Engineering, ecology, project development, and construction are all critical elements to a thriving Chesapeake Bay, and we do it all.

As such, CWRP **supports SB 0969**, and we are grateful for the renewed focus on comprehensive watershed restoration. CWRP believes that the pilot programs launched by this bill would steer resources toward specific goals in specific watersheds that will demonstrate the effectiveness of BMPs from stream restoration to riparian buffer management.

Additionally, CWRP believes that whoever has the privilege of working in resources as sensitive of our streams should be qualified to do so and should be held to high standards. Licensing these professionals would help the restoration community by keeping standards up to a level appropriate to the needs of this environment. We support this effort, even though the licensing of stream restoration contractors would put a burden on our members that doesn't currently exist.

CWRP appreciates the work of the sponsor, as well as the House sponsor, in bringing stakeholders to the table over the past several months, including many productive conversations regarding amendments during the Legislative Session to develop a strong piece of legislation. We look forward to continuing those conversations as the General Assembly works toward a final product.

Sincerely,

Liam O'Meara
President, CWRP