

**SenatorBailey\_FAV\_SB207\_House.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

JACK BAILEY  
Legislative District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
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March 21, 2024

**Senate Bill 207 – Natural Resources – Northern Snakehead – Common Name**

Dear Chairman Korman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 207, which is intended to address the challenges created from the presence of the invasive snakehead fish in Maryland's waterways. This bill seeks to encourage consumption of the snakehead as a means to better manage its population within our waters by giving the snakehead a new, more appealing common name, the "Chesapeake Channa."

As we all know, the snakehead has proven to be a threat to the ecological balance of our state. Its aggressive nature and ability to thrive in diverse environments, including those with low oxygen levels, have raised concerns among environmental experts and watermen for many years. One potential solution that has been pursued to reduce Maryland's snakehead population has been to catch them for use as food. I have had a number of discussions with stakeholders who work to increase the consumption of snakehead, and it is clear that these efforts suffer from one major problem - the snakehead has a limited market of potential consumers because of its unappetizing name.

Altering the common name of a fish has become a successful way to encourage their harvest and consumption. For example, the Dolphinfish became Mahi-mahi, the Slimehead became the Orange Roughy, the Hogfish became King Mackerel, and the Patagonian Toothfish became Chilean Sea Bass. In this case, I believe that an appetizing name is all that stands in the way of consumer acceptance. Renaming the snakehead to make it more marketable would have substantial benefits for our watermen, our economy, and our ecosystem.

This bill passed the Senate 44-2 and is identical to House Bill 19 as it passed this Committee and the House of Delegates. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 207. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey

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Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**Senate Bill 207**  
**Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name**  
**SUPPORT**

March 5, 2024

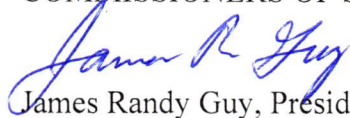
Delegate Marc Korman, Chairman  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Korman:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT Senate Bill 207 - Natural Resources - Northern Snakehead - Common Name** which is being heard in the Environment and Transportation Committee.

We support SB 207 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

  
James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
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Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Todd Morgan  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney