

Good Morning Honorable Senators,

**SB74 - Favorable**

I am Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney testifying on behalf of the residents and Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland to express our support for Senate Bill 74 recognizing persimmon as the State fruit of Maryland

Native to Maryland, persimmons can be found just about everywhere in the state, with the exception of Garrett County due to the mountainous nature of the region.

Like Marylanders, the trees are known for their resilience, being able to thrive for years.

Persimmons are integral to many seasonal recipes and drinks. Persimmons have especially been used for fine wines, jams and baked goods. Indigenous people of the region used the fruit not only for food but medicinally as well. Sore throats and indigestion were common ailments that the use of persimmons attempted to treat.

The usefulness of the persimmon tree doesn't end with the fruit. The wood of the tree is extremely strong, and is commonly used within shoes, golf clubs, flooring and musical instruments.

For these reasons we support SB74 and encourage you to support it as well.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Mahoney

Mayor, Chesapeake Beach