

**Riley Cassidy**

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**February 4, 2025**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

Senator Brian J Feldman – Senator Cheryl C. Kagan  
Maryland Senate  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Written Testimony in Support of Bill SBOO73**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Riley Cassidy, and I am a proud granddaughter of Senate Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. and a Consultant at Guidehouse. I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill SB0073, Renaming the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program.

It is an incredible honor to share written remarks today as we recognize and rename the Chesapeake Bay Conservation Corps in honor of my grandfather, my PopPop as family calls him, Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. My grandfather dedicated his life to Maryland, and nothing was closer to his heart than the Chesapeake Bay—the ‘Jewel of the Chesapeake,’ as he always called it.

Today, I have the privilege of submitting testimony on behalf of his 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, as well as our beloved grandmother, Patti Miller. My grandfather's legacy is characterized by service, leadership, and a steadfast dedication to the Chesapeake Bay. We take immense pride in witnessing his vision continue through this program.

As a proud alumna of the Chesapeake Bay Conservation Corps, I had the opportunity to work with the National Wildlife Federation, where I learned firsthand about the critical importance of green spaces in urban environments. My experience reinforced what my grandfather always believed—that conservation isn't just about protecting the Bay, but also about ensuring that every community, no matter where it is, has access to nature, clean water, and a healthier environment.

For me, the Conservation Corps was not only a place to gain invaluable skills but also a way to make lasting friendships with people who share my passion for conservation, the Bay, activism, and the environment. It is a program that unites people with a common purpose, just as my PopPop envisioned when he established the program in 2010.

He created this program to inspire and empower the next generation of environmental stewards. Today, as we rename it in his honor, we ensure that his vision endures—guiding young leaders who will continue to protect and preserve the Chesapeake Bay for generations to come.

On behalf of my family and in loving memory of my PopPop, thank you for this meaningful tribute. I know he would be incredibly proud!

Sincerely, Riley Cassidy