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Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
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The Senate of Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Senate Bill 73 - Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program - Renaming

When I entered the General Assembly in 2007, Speaker Busch and President Miller were leading our chambers.

In 2019 and 2021, in a very short period of time, we lost both leaders of the Senate and the House of Delegates.

In 2020, the House of Delegates and the Senate rightly honored former Speaker Busch by creating the “*Michael Erin Busch Sports Fund*” in Maryland law knowing his passion for sports and recreation.

I proudly voted to support that legislation.

This bill works to honor former President Mike Miller in our statutes in an area he had a strong passion.

SB 73 passed unanimously in the Senate with strong co-sponsorship.

I wanted to thank the following for their support:

- The Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Arundel River Federation
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and many others

This bill does two things:

1. Names the ‘Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program’ after Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
2. Adds ‘Climate’ to the Program’s title.

This bill is about honoring a fellow member of the General Assembly who gave far more to it than he ever wanted in return.

Former Senate President Mike Miller served both in the House of Delegates and the Senate where he became the longest serving State Senate President in America.

His accomplishments would take too long to detail but I wanted to share a little of my interaction with him.

I served with Mike for 13 years and he was senate president when I first arrived in Annapolis.

I was green in the ways of politics and probably was a thorn in his side for the first few years. However, over time I learned to respect him greatly as I matured in the Senate.

Even if we disagreed on issues from time to time, we became friends in the political arena to point where I could ask his advice, and he'd freely give it.

Early on, as a gesture of good will, I started sending him those nice little Christmas gift boxes of cheese, nuts, candies and cakes to his house. A couple years later, he teased me saying "*I just want you to know, that I always had my wife taste them first to make sure you didn't poison them*".

He was a character!

One of his many initiatives he championed was the "*Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program*". There have been additions and tweaks to the program, but by and large, it's still the program he created.

Most recently, it's duties and funding were updated in the "*Climate Solutions Now Act*", so one of the changes in this bill is to better reflect the program's purpose by adding the word '*climate*' in its title.

The other change, is of course, is to add 'Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.' to the title as it depicted his love for the environment and education.

For these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.