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January 31, 2025

Marc A. Korman
Maryland House of Delegates
Environment and Transportation Committee
Lowe House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To Chairman Marc Korman:

I am writing to you today regarding my testimony on House Bill 040 on January 29, 2025.

I urge you to oppose House Bill 040 in its current state for unfairly discriminating against Maryland senior citizens. The 530% increase for the resident consolidated senior sport fishing license with trout stamp is the largest increase in House Bill 040 and targets only Maryland senior citizens. I will be writing to the other committee members to oppose the bill.

There are many other avenues to raise revenue without unfairly targeting Maryland senior citizens.

I have enclosed a copy of my testimony and a spreadsheet comparing the cost increases in House Bill 040.

Please respond in writing regarding your position or final vote on House Bill 040.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Francis Alesantrino
Life member of the Izaak Walton League of America, Inc.
Lifelong Trout Fisherman

Enclosures:

1. Written testimony
2. Spreadsheet of increases in House Bill 040

HB040

Francis Alesantrino

Oppose

Testimony on HB040 / SB0258 Environment and Transportation Committee

House hearing 1/29/25 at 1:30pm

Representatives,

Thank you for hearing from me today.

Please vote no on House Bill 040. In its current state this bill poses an undo and discriminatory effect on Maryland senior citizens. By raising the fee for the resident consolidated senior sport fishing license and requiring a resident senior to obtain a trout stamp a Maryland senior resident is burdened by a 540 percent increase in costs. This is more than any other fee increase proposed by this bill. This bill commits a discriminatory act by imposing an unjustifiable cost increase for the resident consolidated senior sport fishing license.

Please do not alter the fee for the resident consolidated senior sport fishing license. Maryland resident senior sport fishers have maintained a lifelong commitment to conservation and support of Maryland's natural resources. Most seniors have paid license fees their entire life. A reduced senior cost is earned. It is not uncommon for senior citizens, as grandparents, to introduce the young generation to Maryland fishing and conservation thus insuring continued support from future generations. Please do not penalize us with increased costs.

A majority of the members of the Environmental Subcommittee and the Natural Resources, Agriculture & Open Space Committee are or soon will be senior citizens. This bill could generate ample funds for the Department of Natural Resources without discriminating against Maryland senior citizens. If the bill were proposed without an increase to the resident consolidated senior sport fishing license the bill provides a 56 percent increase in resident annual fishing license fees, a 113 percent increase in resident 7 consecutive day fishing license fees, a 300 percent increase in resident trout stamp fees, an 80 percent increase in nonresident annual fishing license fees, a 329 percent increase in nonresident 7 consecutive day fishing license fees and a 200 percent increase in nonresident trout stamp fees.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB40 section		current	proposed	net increase	percentage increase = increase /current*100
			HB040	HB040	HB040
4-216b2	resident consolidated senior sport fishing license	5	12	7	140%
	resident consolidated senior sport fishing license with trout stamp	5	32	27	540%
4-604d2f1i	resident sport fishing license	20.5	32	11.5	56%
	resident sport fishing license with trout stamp	25.5	52	26.5	104%
4-604d2f1ii	resident 7 consecutive day fishing license	7.5	16	8.5	113%
	resident 7 consecutive day fishing license with trout stamp	12.5	36	23.5	188%
4-6144c1	resident trout stamp fees only	5	20	15	300%
4-604d2f2i	nonresident annual fishing license fees	30.5	55	24.5	80%
	nonresident annual fishing license fees with trout stamp	40.5	85	44.5	110%
4-604d2f2ii	nonresident 7 consecutive day fishing license	7.5	45	37.5	500%
	nonresident 7 consecutive day fishing license with trout stamp	17.5	75	57.5	329%
4-604d2f2iii	nonresident short-term 3 consecutive day fishing license	5	35	30	600%
	nonresident short-term 3 consecutive day fishing license with trout stamp	15	65	50	333%
4-6144c2	nonresident trout stamp fees only	10	30	20	200%