

February 19, 2026

Members of the Senate,

I'm writing about SB 558 as the chairman of the Maryland State Oyster Committee. This bill is incredibly important to Maryland's oyster industry. It would allow oyster propagation and replenishment work to keep moving forward. I've seen firsthand how the mitigation programs tied to transportation projects have helped oysters throughout the Bay, which in turn supports both our industry and the Bay's ecosystem.

I'm asking for a favorable vote on SB 558, the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program.

Respectfully,

Dale "Simon" Dean

Maryland State Oyster Committee, Chair