

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY
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February 17, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Senator
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 558 - Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program - Established

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members:

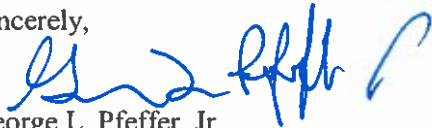
On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 558 entitled, "Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program - Established," for the purpose of establishing the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program to provide funding for certain oyster propagation and replenishment projects that mitigate the effects on the State's oyster population of certain transportation projects; and generally relating to the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program.

Dorchester County strongly supports SB 558 because it creates a dedicated and predictable funding source to offset environmental impacts associated with major transportation and port infrastructure projects. As a Chesapeake Bay community with a long-standing economic and cultural connection to the seafood industry, the County understands the importance of sustaining healthy oyster populations that contribute to water quality, habitat restoration, and the vitality of Maryland's commercial fisheries.

By reinvesting in oyster propagation and replenishment efforts, this legislation helps ensure that economic growth and infrastructure improvements are balanced with responsible environmental stewardship and long-term resource sustainability. The proposed annual appropriation also provides accountability and stability for ongoing restoration efforts that benefit the entire Bay region. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,


George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate