



**Talbot Watermen Association, Inc.**

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February 1, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Smith, Chair Korman, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our **support** for **House Bill 174/Senate Bill 145 - Motor Vehicles and Marine Vessels - Transfer-on-Death Designations**.

These bills would allow eligible individuals and co-owners of vessels to designate a beneficiary to take ownership of the vessel upon the death of the sole owner(s).

Marine vessels are a significant financial investment for our members. The average cost of a used work boat in Maryland can range between \$60,000 and \$100,000. New work boats, such as custom commercial fiberglass boats with advanced technologies, can cost even more. Having the ability to designate a beneficiary for our vessels will help protect our investment and allow continuity in our business. It can also benefit the next generation of young entrepreneurs in the seafood and maritime industries who often lack access to capital.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and we respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 174/Senate Bill 145.

Sincerely,

Herman Jeffrey Harrison  
President

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