



ST. MARY'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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WORKING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SINCE 1947

House Bill 613

Living Shoreline Measurers

Favorable

February 23, 2026

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 250
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 613, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties – Living Shorelines and Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Measures, hearing date February 25, 2026.

Dear Committee Members,

The Board of Directors of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau supports passage of the Living Shorelines and Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Measures for Calvert and St. Mary's Counties.

The legislation seeks to establish requirements for the use of living shorelines and nonstructural stabilization measures in Calvert County and St. Mary's County through the respective Soil Conservation Districts in each county. The Calvert Soil Conservation District and the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District will be required to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the changes to the law. This will authorize greater local control over the stabilization of shorelines in our county, affording landowners of waterfront property immediate access to local technical experts who can assist with curbing soil erosion thus improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Accordingly, we request favorable consideration of House Bill 613.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. 'Jay' Raley, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John D. "Jay" Raley, IV
President
St. Mary's County Farm Bureau