

*"Protecting & Promoting the Marine
Construction Industry Through Unity
& Leadership."*



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Delegate Marc Korman, *Chair*
House Environment & Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 613 – FAVORABLE – Calvert and St. Mary's Counties - Living Shorelines and Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Measures

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Marine Contractors Association (MMCA) has served as the voice of Maryland's marine construction industry since its establishment in 2008. Our association represents 98 licensed marine contractors, tradesmen, suppliers, and other industry professionals working across the state. We exist to protect and promote the marine construction industry by unifying contractors, providing a forum for members to raise shared concerns, and serving as a resource for industry information. Through engagement with policymakers and stakeholders, we work to promote professionalism within the trade and ensure the perspectives of marine contractors are clearly represented.

House Bill 613 establishes county-specific requirements for the use of living shorelines and nonstructural shoreline stabilization measures in Calvert County and St. Mary's County. The bill clarifies when these measures are required, creates feasibility and waiver pathways through local soil conservation districts, and recognizes differing shoreline energy conditions when determining appropriate stabilization approaches. In doing so, it provides clearer, more locally administered standards for shoreline erosion control in these two counties.

The MMCA supports House Bill 613 because clear, workable shoreline stabilization standards are essential for both environmental stewardship and the viability of marine construction businesses. Shoreline protection is a core component of our members' work, and this bill appropriately balances the use of living shorelines with practical feasibility considerations based on site conditions. By clarifying requirements and empowering local soil conservation districts to oversee design, waivers, and implementation, HB 613 provides regulatory certainty that allows licensed marine contractors to plan projects responsibly, protect Maryland's shorelines, and ensure the long-term strength of the state's marine construction industry. We respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Maryland Marine Contractors Association

Brandon S. Weems
M.M.C.A. President & Founding Member

BSW / M.M.C.A. Board of Directors / Evans & Associates