



## **Calvert County Farm Bureau**

3695 Hallowing Point Road, Suite 4, Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
(410) 474-4009 • CalvertFarmBureau@gmail.com

**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 Calvert County Farm Bureau supports House Bill 613.

This legislation establishes requirements for permitting and installation of living shorelines and nonstructural stabilization measures in Calvert County and St. Mary's County through their respective Soil Conservation Districts. Each District will adopt regulations to implement these provisions, ensuring effective local oversight and technical guidance.

Local administration will provide waterfront landowners, including farmers, with direct access to conservation professionals who can help reduce erosion, protect property, and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

We also support expanding the definition of living shorelines to explicitly include oyster reefs and associated structures as eligible stabilization measures. These natural and nature-based features enhance shoreline protection, improve water quality, and provide critical aquatic habitat.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 613.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JAMES RITTER". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

James Ritter  
President, Calvert County Farm Bureau