



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 987 Environment-Recycling-Hotels

CBF POSITION: **SUPPORT**

To: Economic Matters Committee

DATE: February 19, 2020

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) SUPPORTS HB 987. This bill would require an owner, operator or manager of a hotel to provide recycling for their guests and would authorize counties or municipalities to enact and enforce hotel recycling within their jurisdictions.

HB 987 requires recycling for glass, plastic aluminum, paper, and paper products at Maryland hotels. Establishment of recycling practices in hotels in Maryland may also encourage behavior change among the hotel's employees and guests that extends beyond their time at the hotel. Overall, the tenants of HB 987 may eliminate a range of recyclable materials from entering the waste stream or becoming litter.

Litter is one of the most ubiquitous and visible pollutants in communities. This pollution may result in economic, social, and environmental ills, reducing property values, increasing crime, threatening wildlife, and releasing harmful chemicals into waterways. If successful, HB 987 may lessen the litter entering local rivers and streams and protect the Chesapeake Bay from pollution from its tributaries.

For these reasons, CBF SUPPORTS HB 987 and urges a FAVORABLE report. For more information, please contact Carmera Thomas, Baltimore Program Manager at 443.482.2011 or carmerathomas@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.