

FRIENDS OF EASTERN NECK, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 450, Rock Hall MD 21661

District 36

Testimony in Favor of Senate Bill 28

Good afternoon, Chairman Pinsky and Committee members:

My name is Gren Whitman. I live in Rock Hall, Kent County and am representing Friends of Eastern Neck, which is the community support group for Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Friends of Eastern Neck supports Senate Bill 28.

Balloons are frequently released as part of a wedding, a groundbreaking, a memorial vigil, a sport event, or a civic celebration. People who intentionally release balloons obviously mean no harm. Nevertheless, such balloons often injure or kill wildlife, as well as litter land and water and tangle in trees. This is often the case at Eastern Neck.

To protect wildlife and the environment — and based on a similar bill passed by Queen Anne's County just last year — House Bill 13 would ban the intentional release of balloons state-wide in Maryland. It makes more sense to have a single state-wide bill than try to ban balloon releases county by county.

For these reasons, Friends of Eastern Neck urges your committee to adopt a favorable report for HB13.

Thank you.

#####

Contact:

Simon Kenyon, President  
Friends of Eastern Neck, Inc.  
P.O. Box 450  
Rock Hall MD 21661