

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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February 25, 2020

Senate Bill 711 - Aquaculture – Water Column Leases – Conflict Resolution

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 711 - Aquaculture – Water Column Leases – Conflict Resolution. I have introduced Senate Bill 711 in response to concerns that have arisen, particularly in St. Mary's County, regarding the placement of aquaculture leases.

This bill is intended to address the conflicts between waterfront property owners and applicants for oyster leases that have become far too common in our area. Oysters are very important to the Chesapeake Bay and critical to our region as a whole. Often when the General Assembly gets involved in promulgating new laws, there are unintended consequences that arise in the process. This legislation was crafted in hopes of deescalating the controversy that was created ten years ago when the current oyster leasing laws were established.

I would like to thank Chairman Pinsky for working with me on amendments to this bill. After realizing that we had introduced very similar legislation on this issue, Chairman Pinsky and I were able to propose amendments that have been submitted to the Committee to combine the two bills together and ultimately present one piece of legislation from this Committee to address this issue which is so important to my District.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 711 with the amendments that I have offered. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties