

My name is Dale Antosh and I am the President of the Golden Beach/Patuxent Knolls Civic Association. We have had numerous meetings and discussions about oyster leases in our waterways surrounding our wonderful waterfront community. I am writing this representing over 1200 homes in our community and where we all agree that oysters are an important resource for our state, we also agree that the owners of property along our bay and rivers have a right to be informed of anything that affects the surrounding areas of where they live. When people purchase homes in our "Waterfront Community " they are expecting all the amenities that go with that designation whether you are on the water or just in the community. This includes the boating, fishing crabbing and even the wonderful views and sunsets over the water. All residents need to be part of the process when leases are even proposed in populated areas. What people are concerned about is when the underwater leases fail and then before you know it the river is littered with hundreds of poles supporting oyster cages. That would not only be undesirable to look at but would adversely affect property values as that would eliminate many of the amenities that would be provided by a waterfront community. We are in total support of this bill and any others that address the regulation of oyster leases. We all want transparency and want our voices to be heard whenever this topic is being discussed. I only represent a small portion of our county but I'm very sure that most citizens agree that this should be a subject that the residents should have a say in and not just decided by people who do not live in these affected areas.