



Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 13 - Solid Waste Management - Prohibition on Releasing a Balloon Into the Atmosphere, House Environment and Transportation Committee

January 29th, 2020

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments IN SUPPORT of **House Bill 13 - Solid Waste Management - Prohibition on Releasing a Balloon Into the Atmosphere**. ShoreRivers represents more than 3500 local members and our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education.

Professionally for the past 3 years as Riverkeeper, and personally as an avid boater for the past 40 years, I have had the fortune to spend a significant amount of time on the Chester River. I have noticed that trash in the Chester and all of our local waterways is an increasing problem, from minute particles like micro-plastics to larger trash such as Styrofoam containers, plastic bottles, and balloons.

In fact, **balloons are one of the most common pieces of trash that I recover in the mainstem of the Chester River** – rarely a day on the water goes by that I don't retrieve at least one balloon. I recognize that many balloon releases are done with good intentions, yet they are tantamount to indiscriminate pollution of our environment and our waterways.

Thank you for your leadership by taking an important step to prevent trash from entering Maryland's rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

For these reasons, ShoreRivers urges the Committee to adopt a **FAVORABLE** report on **House Bill 13**.

Sincerely,

Tim Trumbauer

Chester Riverkeeper, on behalf of:

ShoreRivers

Jeff Horstman, Executive Director

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