

March 3, 2020

Re: House Bill 1306

Chairman; Vice Chairman; and Committee Members,

I myself do not support House Bill 1306 in anyway. The Department of Natural Resources already has regulations in place to manage the Clam Fishery. I do not see the need for the Shore River Keepers to run to the Legislature to try and run a fishery. As a full time, waterman and crab house owner, razor clams are a very important part of my business's. Without bait clams the price of crab would skyrocket. I have bought thousands of bags of clams over the years for bait and have never seen a blade of SAV grass in any of them. The notion that the clam fleet is destroying the grass beds is absurd. Personally, I feel that if this is an issue maybe it is time for a Clam Advisory Board to be formed at the Department of Natural Resources, instead of running to the Legislature. This is already in place at DNR for other species and Clam Fishery is certainly important enough to be included in that.

Thanking you in advance,

Timothy Mortus

President/Cecil-Harford Waterman's Association

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Maryland Waterman's Association