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**RECREATIONAL ANGLERS  
WORKING TO CONSERVE, PROMOTE, AND ENHANCE MARYLAND'S  
MARINE RESOURCES**

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

To: Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chairman  
Honorable Dana Stein, Vice Chairman  
Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: House Bill 1267 – Workgroup on Public Water Access

**CCA Maryland Position: SUPPORT**

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House Bill 1267 would create a Workgroup on Public Water Access that would include diverse representation to make recommendations to increase public water access and the benefits of public water access on public health.

As Maryland's only statewide recreational angling membership organization, CCA Maryland is always focused on developing and maintaining opportunities for recreational angling. While the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries present multiple access opportunities, the vast majority of our shorelines are private. For some anglers, boating in large and small vessels allows them access to water resources once making it upon the water. Unfortunately, shore-based anglers do not have such broad opportunities at this time. Shore-based fishing is a vital connection as an entry point to the sport for the majority of citizens, and remains as the most likely way to go fishing for the vast majority of Marylanders.

Recreational anglers are a critical component of the Maryland economy and play an essential role in funding natural resource conservation that benefits all Marylanders. As some of the first conservationists, recreational anglers have always organized to protect and enhance our natural resources, and only through access, can all citizens make a meaningful connection to our state's waterways, and possibly bring home a healthy meal for friends and family.

CCA Maryland does not discount the many valuable public access points that exist at this time in Maryland, but does fully support the development of a workgroup to ensure that our state provides a bright future for public access for all.

**For these reasons we respectfully request a favorable vote on House Bill 1267.**

For more information, please contact David Sikorski, Executive Director @ [david@ccamd.org](mailto:david@ccamd.org) or (443)621-9186.