

Larry Hogan  
*Governor*

Boyd K. Rutherford  
*Lt. Governor*



Charles C. Deegan  
*Chairman*

Katherine Charbonneau  
*Executive Director*

**STATE OF MARYLAND  
CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION  
CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS**

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Information Only – House Bill 214 - Environment – Wetlands and Waterways – Riparian  
Rights - Prohibition on Termination or Impairment

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

I am writing to provide information on House Bill 214 and how it may impact Critical Area law and local Critical Area programs. It is our understanding that this bill would prohibit the Department of the Environment (the Department) and the Board of Public Works (the Board) from terminating or impairing – i.e., denying or conditionally approving – a pier license.

This bill, as proposed, may have unintended consequences on local Critical Area programs. Under current Critical Area law (Natural Resources Article 8-1808.5), local jurisdictions are prohibited from approving an individual private pier for a residential development approved by the local jurisdiction with a community pier. In those cases, it would be appropriate for the Department and the Board to continue to be able to deny licenses for individual private piers and not be prohibited from the ability to deny a license.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles C. Deegan".

Charles C. Deegan  
Chairman, Critical Area Commission  
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays