



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
Gregory Slater
Secretary

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 737 – Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 737 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 737 makes changes to a broad variety of existing programs related to environmental conservation and natural resources management and expands opportunities for agencies to obtain private investment and financing for State environmental projects, including conservation efforts, restoration projects, and the installation and repair of green and blue infrastructure.

As amended, Senate Bill 737 may impact MDOT's transportation business units (TBUs) such as the Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) and State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA). Per the legislation, if a water infrastructure asset is determined by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to be a priority for removal to improve fish passage, then MDE may require repair, retrofit, or removal of such infrastructure. However, it is not clear whether MDE could require changes to improve fish passage outside of an MDOT SHA waterway construction permit or the extent to which funding or financial assistance is available, leading to an unknown fiscal/operational impact.

MDOT respectfully requests the Committee consider this information while deliberating on Senate Bill 737.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Maryland Department of Transportation
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