



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

March 3, 2021

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

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1174 – State Boat Act – Removal of Vessels from Marinas – Calvert County Board of County Commissioners Facilities

Dear Chair Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources offers the following information on House Bill 1174. This bill would allow a marina operated by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners to evict a vessel under the same provisions as a privately operated marina.

The existing vessel eviction provision, when used, generally results in the evicted vessel being anchored in open water. If these vessels truly are unattended, they quickly fall into a state of disrepair or even sink. At that time, it becomes the department's responsibility to raise and/or tow the vessel for ultimate disposal.

The bill's impact on the department would be limited to boats following into disrepair and sinking after being towed to open water in Calvert County. While there are fiscal and operational impacts to the department from one county, the greater concern would be if each county follows suit. If this became statewide, the impacts to the department and stakeholders, including anglers, boaters, property owners and watermen) would be substantial.

Thank you for allowing the department to submit this information on HB 1174 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. McKitrick
Director, Legislative and Constituent Service