



January 27, 2021

**House Bill 160**

**Environment – Wetlands and Waterways – Riparian Rights**

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

The Anne Arundel County Administration **SUPPORTS** House Bill 160 – Environment – Wetlands and Waterways – Riparian Rights. This Bill would clarify that riparian rights of a community association or other entity may not be terminated or impaired as a result of erosion, sea level rise, or the issuance of certain approvals by a county, the Department of the Environment, or the Board of Public Works and require the Department to establish and maintain on the Department's website a publicly accessible repository to keep record of community associations or other entities that possess riparian rights; and applying the Act.

This Bill would protect community riparian rights and provide County permit reviewers with the information needed to determine if community riparian rights exist on a property when a private property owner submits an application for a permit. In Anne Arundel County, community associations generally have riparian rights through a statement on a plat or deed that the community association owns the riparian rights for the community at large, a reservation of rights in plats or deeds from a certain number of feet from the mean high water line to the community association, or an actual platted area between the various privately owned lots and the water. This Bill creates a method for tracking how and where those rights are granted, and would assist the County in ensuring those rights are recognized and protected.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 160.