



February 26, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chairman  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: House Bill 1267 –Workgroup on Public Water Access  
Support**

Dear Chairman Barve:

On behalf of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland, I am writing in support of HB 1267 which will study and make recommendations regarding public access to Maryland waterways. The recreational boating industry is a \$3.5 billion industry in Maryland representing nearly \$18,000 jobs. With 3,190 miles of shoreline, our waterways and watersports are a big part of who we are and why people choose Maryland as their home.

Nationally, in 2020, boat sales were up by 12% and paddle sports such as kayaking which had faced declines before the pandemic increased 56%. There is no better time than now to study how we might better serve Marylanders with more public access to our waters.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Zellers".

Susan Zellers  
Executive Director, MTAM

cc: Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee