

January 15, 2021

HB82

Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

Environment and Transportation Committee members,

I am formally submitting this written testimony in favor of HB82, the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights.

All people have “the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment”, as stated by the Maryland General Assembly in 1973. Almost 50 years later in 2021 this statement holds true, even if it has been largely ignored. We need strict policies to ensure the longevity of our environment for both local people and those afar. The battle for a clean environment as well as climate change starts in our backyards – we need to lead by example and that starts with HB82.

Maryland is one of the most environmentally important states in America. We are gifted with one of the most abundant natural resources in the world providing tourism, recreation, and an entire economy based upon it – the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay is worth protecting, not only for the economic stability it provides but for the wealth of human happiness it brings. The Bay is a symbol to Marylanders; protecting it is an extension of protecting Maryland itself and its people.

HB82, the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights, as do many other Marylanders. It is time to take responsibility and action to preserve our environment, because all of us have taken advantage of it. It is time to protect the environment as it will pay dividends in the future, and will mortally wound us if not cared for now. I look forward to the day where I can spend time in nature and in the bay, and tell my children that we fought to keep this place preserved for them, and future generations. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Daniel I. Baumann, Ph.D.

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