



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
In Favor of SB466
– Potomac River Compact–
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee
On March 1, 2022**

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

The need for this bill surfaced from my work as the Senate Chair of the Committee on Federal Relations. Delegate Al Carr, the House Chair, has cross-filed this bill in the House.

The Potomac River Compact (“compact”) is an agreement between Maryland and Virginia that governs the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (“commission”). The commission regulates fisheries in the mainstem tidal Potomac River.

In 2007 and 2013, Maryland and Virginia amended the compact to enact laws that contained several common provisions. However, due to different arrangements of the common provisions in each state’s annotated code, and the inclusion of other provisions in Virginia law that were not included in Maryland law, the enacted laws failed to mirror each other. This sowed confusion around whether certain language requirements had been fulfilled, and whether the common provisions appeared in each state’s annotated code as being in effect. This ultimately led Maryland and Virginia to treat the compact inconsistently.

Senate Bill 466, along with efforts by Virginia to clarify its annotated code, will enable consistent treatment of the common provisions. The

2007 and 2013 amendments, that the bill clarifies are in effect, increased the compensation of the commission's commissioners, changed the allowable oyster inspection tax, and increased the maximum fine for violating commission regulations.

Senate Bill 466 is a technical bill that will ensure the clarity of the compact's provisions in the Maryland annotated code.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "P" and "C".

Jill P. Carter