

SB0876/HB1202 Water Pollution- Civil Penalty Surcharge_Oyster Repletion Fund

FAVORABLE

I support this bill. My business has been negatively impacted by the multiple sewage spills in Maryland waters. If there is a spill in the waters where we are harvesting oysters, the area is closed for harvest.

More impactful are the long-term implications these spills are having on the public's trust in our seafood. After the most recent spill, the price of oysters dropped 5\$ a bushel and customers repeatedly asked us if our oysters were safe to eat. Our overall sales also declined.

I hope this bill will do two things:

- mitigate the immediate financial impacts of sewer spills on the seafood industry when areas are closed to harvest
- encourage those persons liable for the penalties to be more vigilant and proactive in protecting our waterways from pollution spills

Rachel Dean

Calvert County

Patuxent River Seafood