

Walter R Boynton, Emeritus Professor
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Dear Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Mary Lehman

I am writing you today to voice my strong support for the legislation being considered concerning Patuxent River Commission membership (Senate Bill 367). Specifically, this bill requires a seat on the Commission for the Patuxent Riverkeeper. If any seat is specified it certainly should be the Riverkeeper considering the creation and early history of the Commission.

To provide a bit of background I was a faculty member at the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory beginning in 1975 and I am now an emeritus professor at CBL. My main research and teaching interests had to do with estuarine ecology and, in more recent decades, in restoration of these ecosystems. I was one of two scientists at the Patuxent River Charette providing information about the Patuxent's status and trends and likely responses to further pollution loads. One result of the charette was the recognition that nitrogen as well as phosphorus was driving over enrichment of Bay and river waters...BNR efforts started in the Patuxent and are now both Bay-wide and global. I was an active member of the Federal/State group that designed and implemented the Bay monitoring program and data from this program clearly indicate the Patuxent remains seriously impacted, in fact one of the most impacted in the Bay region. I was also a member of the Patuxent River Commission for many years. Finally, I served on the Patuxent Riverkeeper board for many of the early years of this program and have continued to support, in a variety of ways, Fred Tutman's efforts as Riverkeeper.

So, I am very aware of the issues facing the Patuxent and with the Riverkeepers efforts to restore this river to something close to the vision so well and so often stated by Senator Bernie Fowler...a river with clear water and abundant natural resources. I urge you and your colleagues to pass this modification to the Patuxent River Commission to include a seat for the Riverkeeper. During my time on the Commission Fred was an active and productive member of the commission and he kept the commission focused on Patuxent River issues. His voice needs to be a normal part of the commission.

Sincerely yours,

(signature on original/on file)

Walter Boynton