

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0869 – Wetlands and Waterways – Authorizations
For Ecological Restoration Projects

Dear Chairman Barve and members of the Environmental and Transportation Committee,

The Protectors of the St Martin River supports the Wetlands and Waterways – Authorizations For Ecological Restoration Projects HB0869.

The coastal bays of the Eastern Shore of Maryland have degraded water quality caused in part from degradation of the associated wetlands and waterways. This bill proposes actions which Maryland can be taking to more effectively restore wetlands and waterways of the Chesapeake Bay. We believe this action should also apply to the wetlands and waterways of the coastal bays of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Our organization has undertaken numerous efforts to restore healthy waterways in the coastal bays of Maryland, through education of residents in critical areas as to environmentally sensitive land management and through an oyster gardening program to reduce excess nutrients in the coastal bays. This bill, will appropriate amendment, could provide a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the coastal bays of Maryland.

Respectfully,

Joseph Jankowski, Director
Protectors of the St Martin River