



PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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John Hartline, *Chairman*

Christopher Perry, *Vice Chairman*

We, the Patuxent River Commission, envision a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s. We therefore commit to be stewards and advocates for the Patuxent River and to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance, and restore living resources and the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values of the Patuxent River and its watershed.

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee, Maryland House of Delegates
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Request for Passage of HB198

Dear Delegate Barve:

In 2001, the Maryland legislature, seven counties and the City of Laurel adopted the Patuxent River Policy Plan, which includes goals to restore the water quality and living resources of Maryland's largest and longest river. In 2014, the seven counties and the City of Laurel recommitted to restoring the river by adopting the 2015 update to the Patuxent River Policy Plan. Subsequently, in 2016, the Maryland General Assembly passed Joint Resolution 1 to approve the 2015 Patuxent River Policy Plan update as an amendment to the Patuxent River Policy Plan.

The Maryland legislature established the Patuxent River Commission to "review the operation of units of State and local government that have responsibility for implementation of the Plan." **The Commission requests that the Maryland General Assembly pass HB198 Wastewater Treatment Plants - Water Quality Testing and Sewage Overflow and Pipeline Breakage Notification (Environmental Accountability Act of 2023) during the 2023 legislative session (state agencies on the Commission, except for the Maryland Department of Agriculture, abstained or did not vote on the motion).**

HB198 Wastewater Treatment Plants - Water Quality Testing and Sewage Overflow and Pipeline Breakage Notification (Environmental Accountability Act of 2023) will help reduce the impact of nutrient and bacterial pollution that pollute our rivers and streams and harm wildlife; it will support restoration efforts for the Patuxent River. We urge the committee's passage of HB198.

Sincerely,

John Hartline
Chair, Patuxent River Commission