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*Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places*

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March 1, 2023

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

The Honorable Dana Stein  
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation  
Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 983 – Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation -  
Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps -  
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and  
Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Chesapeake Conservancy, I would like offer our support for HB 983  
concerning Hunting, Wildlife Conservation and Outdoor Recreation – Funding,  
Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps.

As an organization working to conserve lands throughout Maryland and the  
Chesapeake Bay watershed and expand public access to outdoor spaces and  
experiences, we believe that hunting and outdoor recreation are an important  
component of Maryland's overall conservation efforts. HB 983 would support  
conservation, outdoor recreation and conservation stewardship in a number of ways.

Importantly, this legislation would increase hunting license fees for the first time in  
more than 40 years, which will provide a significant funding increase for the  
Department of Natural Resources to manage wildlife conservation efforts.

Secondly, the legislation would a new Wildlife Conservation, Education and Outreach  
program that will specifically support education and conservation opportunities for  
young people and others who have been historically excluded from hunting and  
outdoor recreation. Funding for this new program would be sourced by the increased  
hunting license fee.

Thank you for considering our letter of support, and I urge a favorable report of HB  
983

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Dunn".

Joel Dunn  
President and CEO  
Chesapeake Conservancy