

TO: House Environment and Transportation Committee Testimony on: HB 874, Office of the
Attorney General – Environment and Natural Resources Monitoring Unit –

Establishment Position: Favorable Date: March 7, 2023

I have been a proactive advocate for environmental conservation for more than 50 years. I am happy to live in a state that has enacted a number of laws to protect and preserve our natural resources. Unfortunately, these laws have been less effective than intended because of a lack of enforcement of their provisions. Whether it's oyster poaching in the Bay or animal waste pollution on the Eastern Shore, there are many examples of a failure to enforce our environmental laws and hold violators accountable. It is well past time for the General Assembly to remedy this situation. HB 874 is just what the doctor ordered. The Office of the Attorney General can bring additional resources to the task and is more focused on the legal, rather than the commercial, aspects of a case and will, therefore not hesitate to pursue criminal and civil penalties necessary to hold violators accountable. And, whereas state agencies can become captive to industry, Attorneys General usually maintain a more neutral and objective approach. For these reasons, I enthusiastically urge you to support HB 874, for our children and grandchildren. Thank you for your consideration. Lani Hummel Annapolis