

"Protecting & Promoting the Marine
Construction Industry Through Unity
& Leadership."



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February 26, 2024

Maryland State Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB924 & HB590 *Boating – Migratory Waterfowl Season – Prohibited Acts*

Dear Chairman Feldman & Committee Members:

The Maryland Marine Contractors Association (M.M.C.A.) provides the following comments on HB0590.

The M.M.C.A. is generally supportive of Senate Bill 924 with amendment. In its current form SB924 & HB590 could be significantly limiting to the marine construction industry. The bill proposes to prohibit any and all vessels from being in operation within 500 feet of an occupied hunting blind. Our industry is already subject to overlapping regulatory time of year restrictions. We can understand the existing limitations on recreational activities (recreational fishing) within certain limits of hunting activity, but we believe the restriction on working vessels to be overburdensome.

We respectfully request an amendment that exempts all Maryland licensed marine contractors, who are working in the vicinity of a stationary blind or blind site that is occupied and being used for hunting migratory waterfowl, from this seasonal restriction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Maryland Marine Contractors Association, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon S. Weems". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brandon S. Weems
M.M.C.A. President

BSW/ksw