



January 31, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 304 - Natural Resources - State Boat Act – Alterations
Testimony in Support**

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 304 which, among other things, will modify license fees paid by a manufacturer or dealer; application fees for a certificate of number; Maryland use sticker fees; and fees to issue a certificate of title, a transfer of title, or a duplicate or corrected certificate of title. The proposal also alters definitions and regulatory requirements under the State Boat Act. Senate Bill 304 will also allow the owner of a vessel to apply to the Department for a nonmotorized vessel decal.

Provisions under Senate Bill 304 that result in voluntary nonmotorized vessel decals will lead to federal funding increases for DNR Natural Resources Police. Additionally, local Waterway Improvement Fund projects including dredging and marking channels and harbors, construction of jetties and breakwaters, and clearing of debris, aquatic vegetation, and obstructions in navigable waters will significantly benefit Maryland's boating community.

When the provisions of Senate Bill 304 are fully implemented, Special Fund Revenues for the State Boat Act Fund in DNR will increase for the first time in over 20 years, and these revenues will support program costs which support Maryland's boating industry.

The Marine Trades Association of Maryland is a 501(c)(6) organization representing the recreational boating industry in Maryland. The recreational boating industry has a \$4.2 billion economic impact in Maryland representing 16,871 jobs. With 3,190 miles of shoreline, our waterways and watersports are a big part of who we are and why people choose Maryland as their home.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Stefancik
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee