



NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – www.NFIB.com/Maryland

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: February 27, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE SENATE BILL 653** – Standing – Environmental and Natural Resources Protection Proceedings

Founded in 1943, NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, and nearly 4,000 here in Maryland, we work to protect and promote the ability of our members to grow and operate their business.

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB-Maryland opposes Senate Bill 653 – legislation creating new liability concerns for small businesses under the threat of expanded legal actions.

NFIB is concerned by the potential for this bill to have unanticipated consequences for small businesses by creating duplicative liabilities that spring to life. SB653 states plainly a person or association may not bring an action under this legislation if “the Secretary has commenced and is diligently prosecuting a civil or criminal action.” This begs the question why then, is this bill necessary?

However, should a determination be made that an agency secretary is not “diligently prosecuting” a case then a small business could essentially be faced with defending itself on multiple fronts.

This bill makes substantial changes to the law without adequate opportunities to truly evaluate the impacts. For these reasons, **NFIB OPPOSES SB653** and requests an unfavorable committee report.