

**TODD B. MORGAN**  
*Legislative District 29C*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 215  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3319 · 301-858-3319  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3319  
Todd.Morgan@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Korman:

I am writing to introduce House Bill 120. This would allow commercial watermen in Maryland licensed under the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to acquire funds available through the Maryland Watermen's Microloan Program

In 2022, the General Assembly established the Maryland Watermen's Microloan Program to provide loans to qualified commercial fishermen to buoy commercial operations in the state. Access to these funds requires a Tidal Fish License, assuring that only commercial fisherman may participate in the program. This is all well and good, but in establishing the program, the wording of the bill inadvertently excluded Maryland residents who fish on the Potomac River, which is part of our state in its entirety.

I have been made aware that commercial watermen on the Potomac River mostly hold Potomac River Fishing License, not a statewide license. These watermen are still vital contributors to the states fishing industry, but do not have access to the Microloan program because of the different license. This bill simply extends the same opportunities to Potomac River watermen that is available to the rest of the watermen in the state. This is about equity.

In closing, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 120

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Todd B. Morgan'.

Delegate Todd B. Morgan