



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1165 – Whole Watershed Act

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee –

HB 1165 incentivizes holistic watershed restoration by establishing new funding streams and approval pathways for innovative watershed projects, which include environmental co-benefits to ensure a long-term, positive impact on water quality, habitat restoration, and living resources.

Key Elements of HB 1165 include:

- A focus on watersheds that present opportunities for most significant impact on a (relatively) **expedited timeline** with coordination among State, local, and private partners and input from community members
- Projects that are selected to represent different geographic & land use types and will **prioritize Environmental Justice communities**
- The requirement of **multiple co-benefits** to support the health of the whole watershed & community
- A **State Management Team** consisting of multiple State agencies to select projects, monitor and support progress, and expedite the permitting process
- **5 Pilot Deployment Teams** consisting of NGOs, local governments, affected landowners, private industry
- **\$20M in concentrated, existing State funding** toward 5 whole watershed projects for 5 years
- **New certification for developers & contractors** who complete restoration projects to uphold standards & ensure quality

I respectfully request a favorable report.