

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
501 Court Lane, P.O. Box 26
Cambridge, Maryland 21613
(410) 228-1700

GEORGE L. PFEFFER, JR., PRESIDENT

MIKE DETMER, VICE PRESIDENT

ROB KRAMER, JR.

WILLIAM V. NICHOLS

RICKY C. TRAVERS



JERRY JONES
COUNTY MANAGER

MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman, Delegate
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 0894, “Endangered and Threatened Species – Incidental Taking - Bats.”

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for House Bill 0894 entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species – Incidental Taking - Bats” for purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Natural Resources to issue an incidental taking permit for certain species of bats if an applicant submits a certain plan and the Secretary makes certain findings; and generally relating to the establishment of an incidental taking permit for certain species of bats.

Bat species are found in every Maryland County and with the potential for additional species being listed this will pose significant challenges to forest management, ultimately threatening Maryland’s rural economy. The forestry sector has a total economic impact of \$3.3 billion and supports 12,890 jobs statewide. To establish a path forward for sustainable forest management it is imperative that Maryland updates its law to enable Habitat Conservation Plans and incidental take permits for bat species to allow a balanced approach, therefore, we ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please contact the Council’s Office at (410) 228-1700

Sincerely,

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

cc: The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate
The Honorable Tom Hutchinson, Delegate

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February 18, 2025

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

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 0946, “Endangered and Threatened Species – Incidental Taking - Bats.”

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 0946 entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species – Incidental Taking - Bats” for purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Natural Resources to issue an incidental taking permit for certain species of bats if an applicant submits a certain plan and the Secretary makes certain findings; and generally relating to the establishment of an incidental taking permit for certain species of bats.

Bat species are found in every Maryland County and with the potential for additional species being listed this will pose significant challenges to forest management, ultimately threatening Maryland’s rural economy. The forestry sector has a total economic impact of \$3.3 billion and supports 12,890 jobs statewide. To establish a path forward for sustainable forest management it is imperative that Maryland updates its law to enable Habitat Conservation Plans and incidental take permits for bat species to allow a balanced approach, therefore, we ask that you look favorably upon this bill.

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