

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB898 – Nutrient Management – Tidal Buffer – Vegetative Buffers and Restrictions on Fertilizer Application

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee Hearing:
February, 18th at 1:00 pm

To: Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Georgeanne Pinkard and I live in Queenstown, Md. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of SB898 which seeks to reduce agricultural fertilizer into the Chesapeake Bay tidal waters.

As a lifelong resident of the Eastern Shore, I care deeply about the preservation of our natural habitat and livelihood of both our farmers and water women/men.

I believe that the environmental benefits of SB898 are achievable by working together with our tenant farmers and landowners by offering a viable financial incentive to create a 100ft. riparian buffer along our Maryland waterways.

I am grateful to Senator Love for bringing this legislation forward to further the successes achieved since the creation of the Bay Agreement 40 years ago. Strategic implementation practices and creative policies will continue to address nutrient run-off from non-point source pollution. Though we are facing a budget shortfall – I believe that the long-term funding of this important legislation can be absorbed through both a public and private partnership.

Very truly yours,

Georgeanne Pinkard
Master Naturalist
Arborist
CFRE