



Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places

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Date: March 24, 2025
Bill Number: **SB 722 - Department of the Environment - Ecological Restoration**
Committee: House Environment and Transportation
Position: Support

Chairman Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Chesapeake Conservancy supports SB 722 - Department of the Environment - Ecological Restoration, for the purpose of clarifying and making consistent, the definition of “ecological restoration”, for the expected outcome of clear activities and actions that restore or improve an ecosystem.

This bill “ecological restoration” means an activity undertaken with the goal of recovering, re–establishing, or enhancing a degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystem through:

- 1) making improvements to physical, chemical, or biological characteristics or processes;
- 2) returning natural or historical functions or services; or
- 3) protecting or improving the resiliency of the land.

We thank you for advancing the companion bill (HB 1155) and urge you to **please move the Senate bill favorably without any additional amendments.**

Though significant restoration progress continues to be made within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the watershed is still in need of significant restoration in order to bring back a thriving ecosystem. Chesapeake Conservancy is the only watershed-wide organization focused on both land conservation and stream restoration to achieve a healthier Chesapeake Bay.

For further information, please contact Mark Conway, Executive Vice President of External Affairs, at MConway@ChesapeakeConservancy.org or 443-321-3610.

We greatly appreciate your consideration and respectfully request a favorable report.