

MARCH 6, 2025

SHORE PROGRESS

HOUSE BILL 506: CHESAPEAKE BAY LEGACY ACT

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

The Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act is a critical step toward protecting Maryland's Eastern Shore communities, the Chesapeake Bay, and the livelihoods that depend on them. This legislation offers a comprehensive approach to agricultural sustainability, water quality monitoring, and fisheries management, ensuring that both environmental and economic interests are prioritized in the preservation of our state's most vital natural resource.

The Chesapeake Bay is the heart of Maryland's identity. On the Eastern Shore, it is the economic and ecological backbone of our community, supporting thousands of jobs in fishing, aquaculture, and tourism. Investing in sustainable fisheries, clean water initiatives, and agricultural conservation will support job growth in the aquaculture industry, environmental restoration projects, and conservation-based agriculture, ensuring that Maryland's working waterfronts and farmlands remain viable and productive. The legislation's approach to collaborative partnerships with local governments, universities, and conservation organizations will maximize resources and bring new investment to rural economies.

This bill will protect the Eastern Shore's most vulnerable communities - those facing rising sea levels, increased flooding, and unpredictable weather patterns - while also providing pathways for sustainable growth, environmental restoration, and economic resilience in Eastern Shore communities and beyond.

Shore Progress urges a favorable report.

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