



**MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS**

**Maryland LCV
Board of Directors**

Patrick Miller
Chair

Honorable Nancy Kopp
Treasurer

Bonnie Norman
Secretary

Kimberly Armstrong

Caroline Baker

Joe Gill

Lynn Heller

Honorable Steve Lafferty

Kevin Loeb

Kim Coble
Executive Director

February 10, 2026

Oppose: SB 368 Calvert and St. Mary's Counties - Living Shorelines and Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Measures

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Opposes SB 368 Calvert and St. Mary's Counties - Living Shorelines and Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Measures.

SB 368 would create a special exemption for only two counties in the state from the current, established process for assessing and permitting shoreline stabilization measures for waterfront property owners. The bill would move the authority for the process of permitting or exempting the use of living shorelines or non structural shoreline stabilization measures to local Soil Conservation Districts. These offices, under Maryland Department of Agriculture, while excellent partners in the protection of the Chesapeake Bay through land-based practices, especially agricultural lands, are not the appropriate agents for projects in tidal wetlands and those associated with the living resources that make up living shorelines.

Furthermore, language in this bill makes added provisions for exemptions in the use of living shorelines, when our most up to date science on the health of the Chesapeake Bay emphasizes the importance of nearshore habitats and living resources. [The Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response \(CESR\) Report](#), released by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, stated: "A new approach to water quality management, *combined with nearshore habitat management*, can open new opportunities for living resource abundance." (*Emphasis added.*)

It is important for Maryland to maintain a commitment to the establishment and maintenance of living shorelines and non structural erosion control along the tidal shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. This bill would undermine an established program for doing just that.

Maryland LCV urges the committee to reject the approach proposed in SB 368.