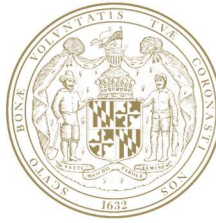


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON
TERRY BAKER
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER
ANDRE V. JOHNSON, JR.
STEVE JOHNSON
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

March 31, 2026

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

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 613 Calvert and St. Mary's Counties - Living Shorelines and Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization Measures**.

HB 613 establishes a new, locally driven process for living shoreline and nonstructural shoreline stabilization projects in Calvert County and St. Mary's County through their respective Soil Conservation Districts. This legislation addresses longstanding concerns that the unique environmental conditions of Southern Maryland's waters and shorelines are not always adequately reflected in state-level decision-making, and transfers planning, review, waiver authority, and related decisions to qualified local experts. For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 613 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson L. Ghrist".

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Co-Chair