

To: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Ken Eaton, Senior Coastal Manager, MD Based Engineering Company

Date: February 6, 2026

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

Position: **FAVORABLE: SUPPORT**

I have worked in the Coastal Engineering field for over 40 years for a Maryland based architectural / engineering company, and currently reside in Queen Anne's County. I quite often see projects throughout Maryland that have been identified with the recommended shoreline practice as "Living Shoreline" on the Maryland Shoreline Stabilization Mapper (MSSM), that should not be classified as such.

When that happens, most clients ask us to apply for a "Living Shoreline waiver," especially when the shorelines are in moderate to high exposure areas. Quite honestly, all this does is cost the property owner more money to prepare the application to stabilize the shoreline. This additional step requires a separate site visit, collection of data, and preparation of a brief report. In addition, MDE has been requiring that structural shoreline stabilization projects be designed by a "Coastal Engineer." Other shoreline improvements are not required to be evaluated or designed by a coastal engineer. In many instances, an experienced marine contractor can provide a more than adequate design for a shoreline stabilization project, especially if he has been working in the general area and is familiar with the tides, currents, and winds.

This is where I see this bill being beneficial, not only for St. Mary's and Calvert Counties, but throughout the coastal parts of Maryland. The local Soil Conservation District offices are familiar with the counties they are located in and would have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to shoreline stabilization.

This would help property owners and keep the decision-making process within the local district.

I urge the committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on SB 368.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Kenneth B. Eaton