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Society of the United States and
Humane Society International

January 27, 2026

To: The Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Re: SB 178, Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program
- Standards and Procedures
Position: Support

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

On behalf of our Maryland members and supporters, Humane World for Animals offers its support for SB 178 to update standards and procedures governing the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program.

Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays provide vital resources for their human inhabitants, as well as essential habitat for a magnificent array of wildlife.

Habitat loss and fragmentation pose an immediate and long-term threat to countless wildlife species. The U.S. human population is expected to grow to nearly 400 million by 2050, meaning more development, more deforestation and habitat degradation. A new long-term study finds that 3 billion birds, even common birds, have vanished in the U.S. and Canada.¹

In response, wildlife management professionals and scientists across the U.S. stress the importance of conserving and enhancing crucial habitats to ensure the continued health and wellbeing of wildlife.

Because of this, Humane World for Animals reiterates support for SB 178 to support the important work of the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stacey Volodin
Maryland State Director
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¹ Rosenberg KV, Dokter AM, Blancher PJ, Sauer JR, Smith AC, Smith PA, Stanton JC, Panjabi A, Helft L, Parr M, Marra PP. Decline of the North American avifauna. *Science*. 2019 Oct 4;366(6461):120-124. doi: 10.1126/science.aaw1313. Epub 2019 Sep 19. PMID: 31604313.