

Adrien Malick (NHSM) support letter for Otodus meg

Uploaded by: Adrien Malick

Position: FAV

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman and Delegate Wells.

My name is Dr. Adrien Malick and I am a Trustee, Curator, and a Co-Founder of the Fossil Club of the Natural History Society of Maryland – the NHSM. I am writing in support of SB 0135 (sponsored by Senator Bailey) and HB 0097 (sponsored by Delegate Morgan) to make *Otodus megalodon* the Maryland State Shark.

Otodus megalodon was the apex predator of the Miocene Epoch. This shark could be 50 plus feet long with a mouthful of serrated teeth up to 6 inches and a bite stronger than a *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The Miocene time period from about 23 to 5 million years ago has several exposures in Maryland, including the Calvert Cliffs area of Calvert County. Collecting fossil shark teeth draws countless visitors to Calvert Cliffs and finding a “MEG” is on the bucket list of both amateur and professional collectors. This is a boon to public access locations including the Flag Ponds Nature Reserve and Calvert Cliffs State Park, and the economic ripple effects are felt throughout the region.

Looking for and finding sharks teeth is the gateway drug to a lifetime of exploring the outdoors, understanding geologic time, learning about adaptation and change, and understanding our personal role in the ecology of Maryland. It is not surprising that people love the experience of finding sharks teeth and make a special effort to keep the Bay and its shoreline clean. For many of us this is a legal and lifelong addiction. Making the *Otodus megalodon* the Maryland State Shark will go a long way to promoting this aspect of Maryland tourism and providing another foothold for education and appreciation of the Chesapeake Bay and our natural resources.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Adrien Malick, Ph.D.

SB 135 - CBF - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Allison Colden

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Senate Bill 135 State Designations - State Shark – Megalodon

Date: March 12, 2026

To: Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

From: Matt Stegman,
MD Staff Attorney

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 135** which would designate the Megalodon (*otodus megalodon*) the State Shark of Maryland. While this mighty species has been extinct for millions of years, they remain a unique part of Maryland's natural history and a reminder of what the ancient Chesapeake Bay region was like.¹ Additionally, searching for sharks' teeth has long been a fun and peaceful way for people to explore the Chesapeake Bay.

Megalodon is long extinct, yet its fossil record reminds us of the numerous varieties of sharks that can be found in modern Maryland. In fact, sharks are found throughout the Chesapeake Bay, especially the lower and middle regions, as well as in its tributaries like the Potomac River, with species like sandbar sharks, bull sharks, and sand tiger sharks being most common. There have been sightings of bull sharks as far north as the Patuxent River near Baltimore. The Bay is one of the most important nursery areas on the East Coast for young sandbar sharks.²

While the sight of a 6-inch-long Megalodon tooth can evoke the film *Jaws*, fear not, there are no recorded shark attacks in the Chesapeake Bay and seeing one of these elusive creatures in our waters is actually a welcome sign of a healthy and rebounding ecosystem. However, many of Maryland's shark species are struggling due to a lack of forage fish availability, including key species like menhaden³. Sharks also reproduce much slower than other fish and need sustainable fisheries management to help keep their populations thriving. CBF's advocacy for effective regulation of Maryland's fisheries, restoration work like planting riparian buffers and creating oyster reefs, and advocacy for better stormwater management all help support sharks in the Bay.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 135.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ For more, check out [Megalodon Teeth and the Ancient Chesapeake Bay: An Interview with Dr. Stephen Godfrey • Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

² [Sharks • Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

³ [Atlantic Menhaden • Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

Megalodon Shark III Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

Allison

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Senator Jack Bailey, 4300

District 29, James Senate

office 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear, Senator Jack Bailey,

I'm going to be writing about megalodon sharks.

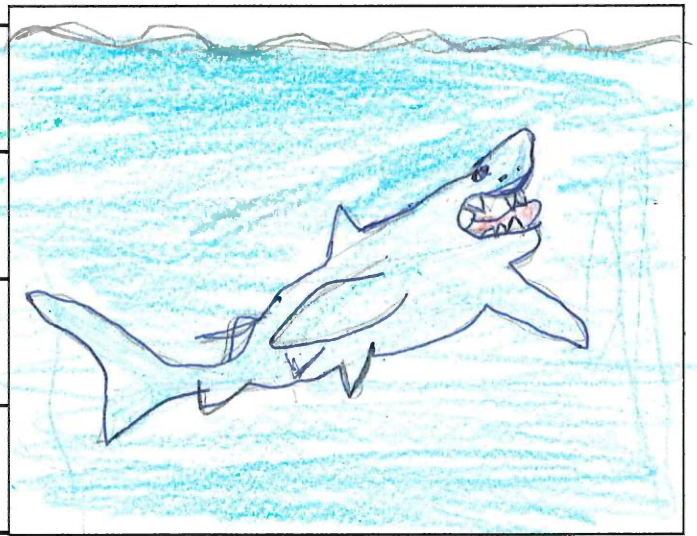
First, fact is that the megalodon is the
largest shark to ever

live reaching to like

60 to 80 feet. My second,

fact is the megalodons

have massive teeth



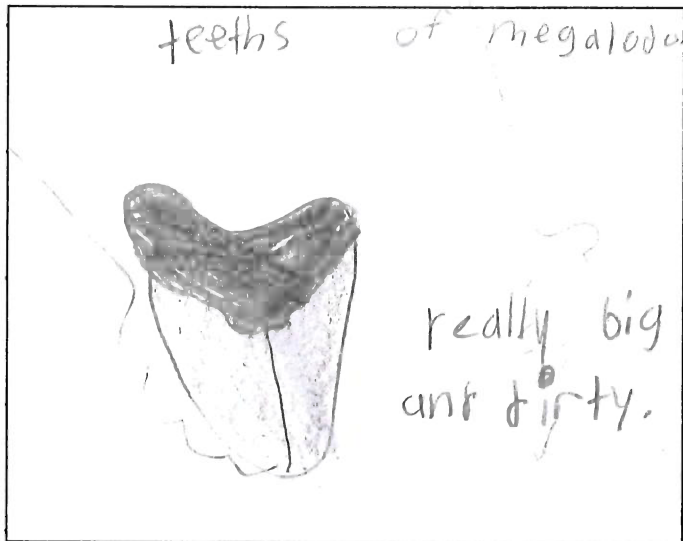
they have really big teeth that are like nearly

to 7 inches. the third fact is that

When megalodons were born they were several
feet long.

Next, here are some fun facts! So first

did you know that Megalodons went



extinct about 2.14 million

years ago. Also megalodons

were an important

apex predator. Ok! now

I'm done with fun facts but "How power-

ful was a megalodon's bite? Well to that

question it was 40,000 pounds ^{per} ^{sq} inch ^{lastly} just by

the force, I think. Lastly, the biggest

megalodon found was likely about 60-70

feet (18-21 meters) long.

Lovely,

Willson

Gerver [REDACTED]

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

4300 Wicomico Avenue

Beltsville, MD to

11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD
(James Senate Office Building)

Dear Senate Bailey,

My name is Gerver and I am writing
about how we want the Megalodon

shark to be the MD

state shark. I believe

this for these 3

reasons. First, the

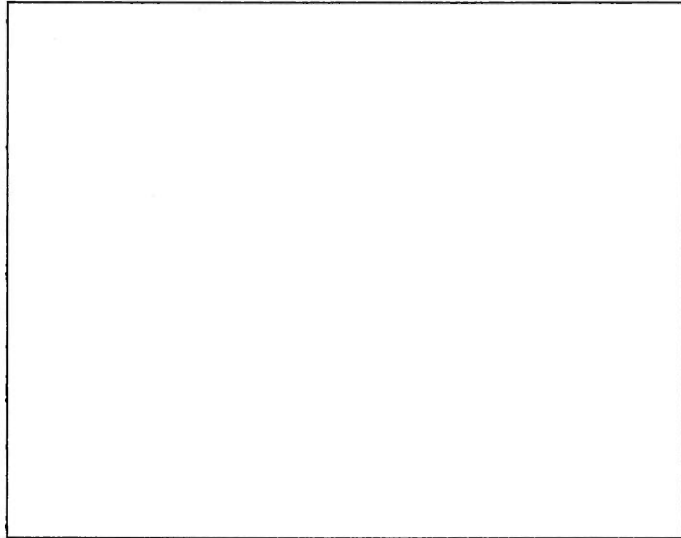
megalodon shark

has a strong connection with Maryland

Millions of years ago. MD was

covered with warm beaches. Scientists have

Found many Megalodon shark teeth in MD especially in the Calvert Cliffs.



These Fossils prove that megalodon sharks once lived in Maryland.

Second, the megalodon shark was an amazing

and powerful animal. If it was one of biggest shark ever lived. According to National Geographic

the megalodon can grow up to 60 Feet tall.

Its huge teeth help it eat its prey. Third its very fun to

Charlee

Megalodon

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey

District 29, James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

My name is Charlee and I'm
writing to ask you to make

the Megalodon

shark the state

I believe this is

a great idea for

3 important reasons

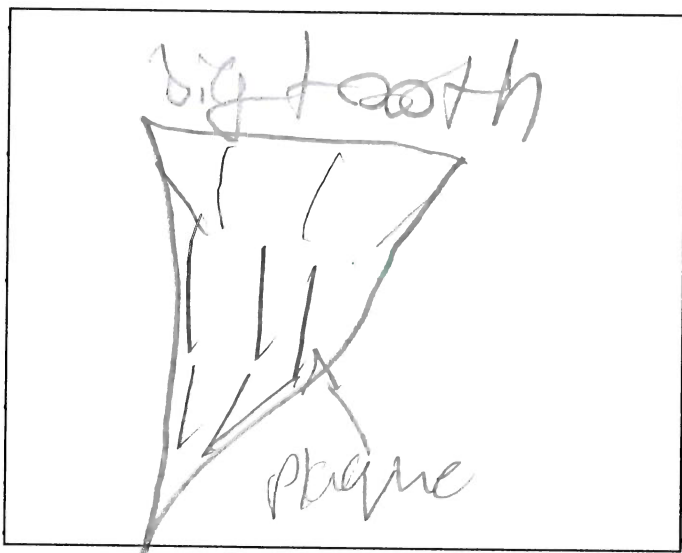


#1 I think the megalodon shark

should be the Maryland state shark

because Maryland is strong in

big ways like the Megalodon
shark. And the second reason



Why is because
the Megalodon shark
lived on and near
Maryland. Finally,
I think this is because

the Megalodon shark is
the biggest most strongest just
like Maryland.

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 3rd, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey, Dis. 29

James Senate Building
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Jack Bailey

I am writing to ask you to
pass the bill to make the megalodon the state
shark. My first reason is that

they're really big.

My second reason is

that they used to live in the

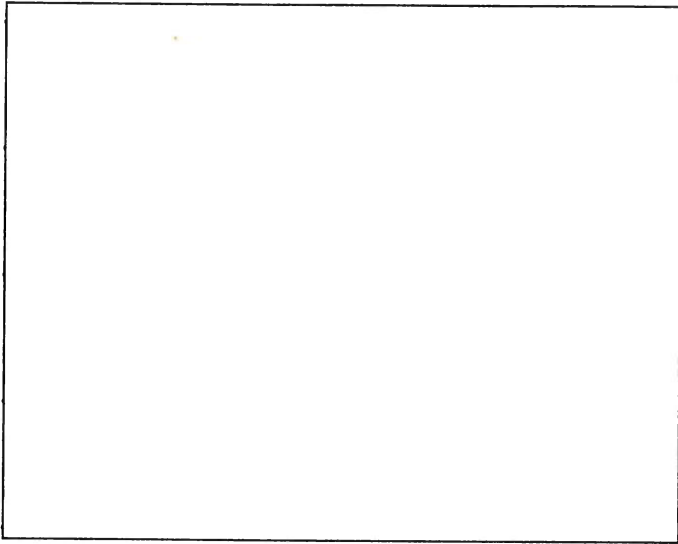
Chesapeake Bay.

My last reason is that it will make

people interested in finding megalodon teeth. Thank you for

making the megalodon the state shark!

Sincerely, Joer

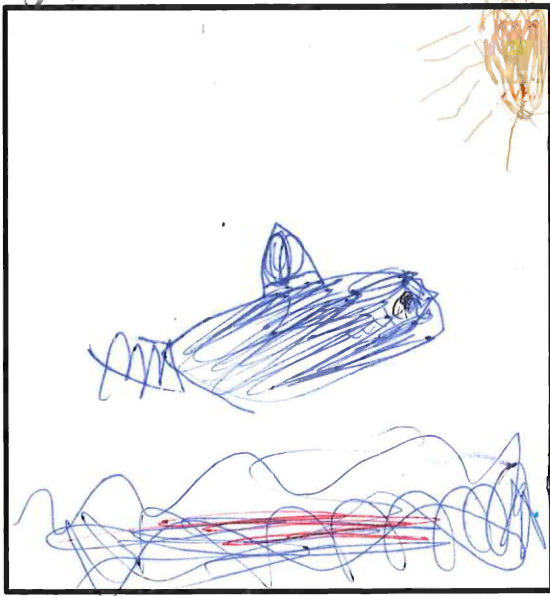


Megalodon shark letter

By: Brianna

Senator Jack Bailey, District 29
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey, I am writing to ask if we can make the megalodon shark the state shark. I think the megalodon shark should be the state shark. My first



reason is the megalodon shark only kill about 2 or 1 persons per year. My other reason is megalodon shark don't really show up. My last reason they live deep in the sea.

Sincerely Brianna

A blank sheet of lined paper with a decorative border. The border consists of a double-line outer frame with small dots at the corners. The page contains 20 horizontal lines. A large, empty rectangular box is positioned on the right side, overlapping the 10th to 15th lines from the top.

Megalodon Shark Testimony I.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

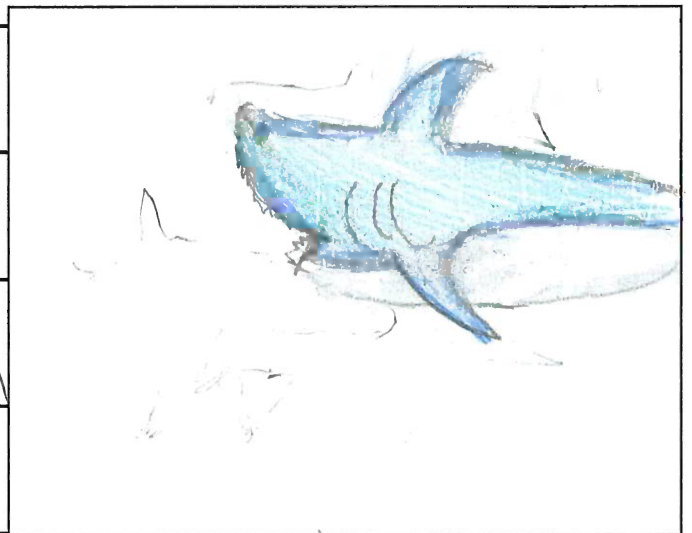
Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2020

4300 Wisconsin Ave,
Beltsville, MD 20705

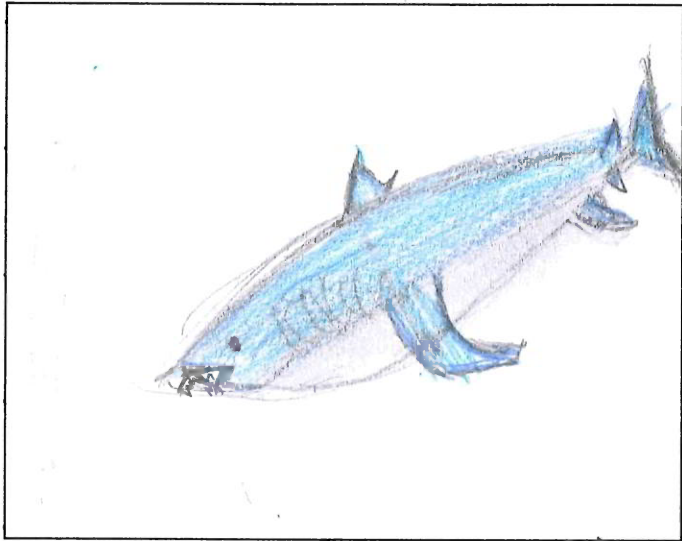
Dear Senator Bailey,

My name is Jocelyn and I am
~~writing~~ asking you to make the
Megalodon the
state shark. I have
3 reasons why to
make the Megalodon
the state shark.



The first reason is that
Megalodon is strong and if it's
the state shark people will

I think Maryland is strong. The second reason is many fossilized



megalodon teeth has been found in Maryland.

The last reason is the megalodon

would honor Maryland's unique past about finding modern and prehistoric sharks found in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal water. The Megalodon should be the official state shark.

Sincerely,

Jordyn

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2026

4300 wicomico Ave,

Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

I am writing to ask if we

can pass the bill on the

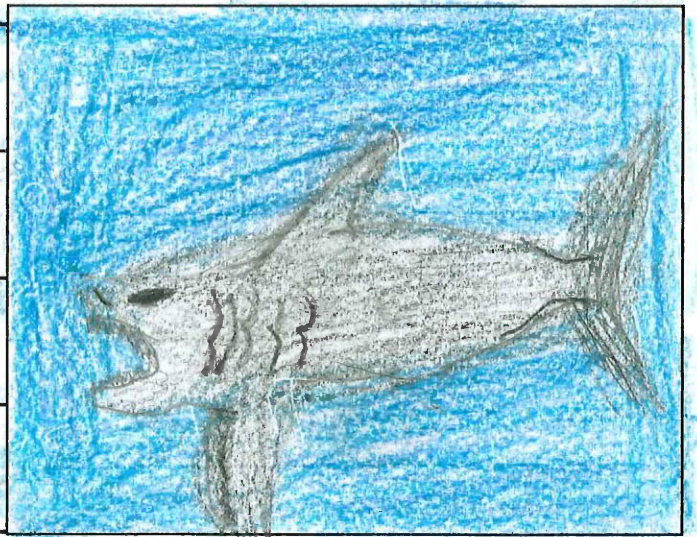
Megalodon being

Maryland's state

shark. I think

the Megalodon

should be Mary-



-and's official shark. I have three

reasons #1 Most of the Megalodon

fossils that have been found were

found in Maryland at Calvert
Cliffs. #2 Megalodons were the



strongest sharks
to ever live mean-
ing that Maryland would
look strong if the
megalodon was our

state shark. #3 lots of megalodon
fossils were found in Maryland

and the megalodon is a really
interesting extinct prehistoric

animal. That is why Maryland's
state shark should be a Megalodon.

Sincerely
Mike

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Jeremiah Feb

24 2026 District 29

James Jantel Office
building II bladen Street
annppoints
Dear Sen Bailey,

I think the Megalod should be state
shark because most of the fossil were
found in Maryland

Prince Geogtry Country

It was living in

Prince Maryland at

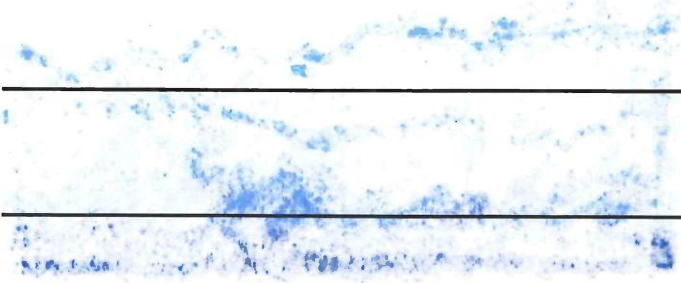
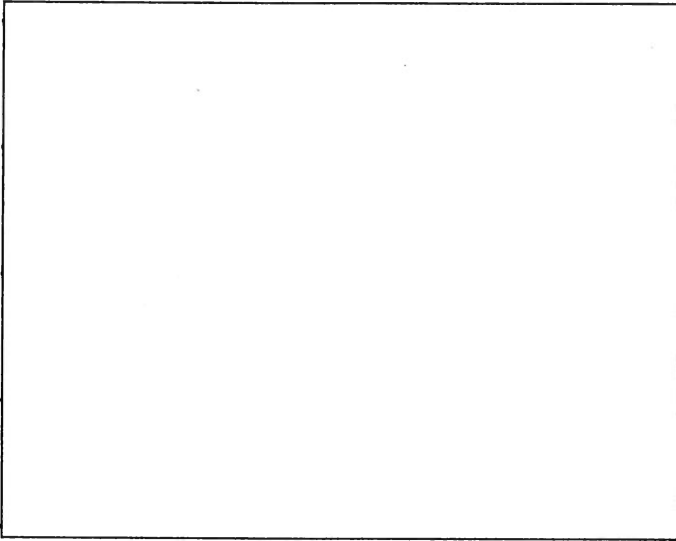
the time to. I had



the text it says that the megalod

had a bite force was bigger than

a t rex.



1102

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Feb. 24, 2026

4300 W. Conico Ave.

Beltville, MD 20705

Dear Senator Jack Briley,

I am writing to ask if we can make

the Megalodon the state shark, I think

the Megalodon should

be the state shark.

and I have 3 reasons

Why, Reason 1: many

Megalodon fossils are found

in many lands. Reason 2: It's super old

like many land because any land is 300 years old

as a colony and the megalodon was 3 million years



996 Reason 3: people will want to learn
more about sharks and marine life.



This is why I think
the regulation should be
the maximum state
sharks.

From,

P. L. Thaw

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

January 20, 2026

4300 Wicomico Ave.

Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Senator Bailey,

My name is Genesis, and I am writing

to ask you to make the megalodon the

Maryland state shark

and I have three

reasons why. My first

reason is you can

find many Megalodon

fossils in Maryland like in Calvert

Cliffs. My second reason is that the megalodon

shark is strong and brave so people will think

Megalodon

Shark

We are also strong and brave. My last reason is the Megalodon should be our state shark



because If it becomes our state shark people will want to learn more about the Megalodon shark and they will

think the Megalodon is powerfull. Thank you for taking your time to read this and this is why I think the megaladon should be our official state sherk for Maryland.

kindly,

Genesis Genesis

Megalodon Shark Testimony II.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Senator Jack Bailey February 24, 2026

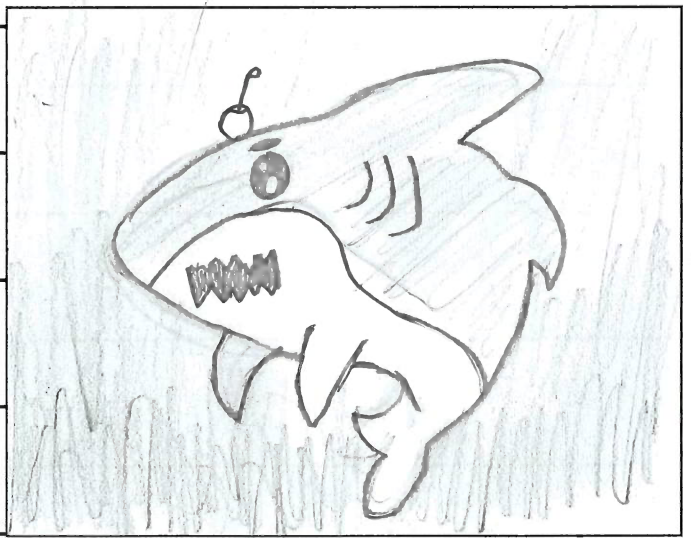
District 29 James Senate Building

11 Bladen Street Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

Senator Bailey I want the
Megalodon shark to be state
shark because

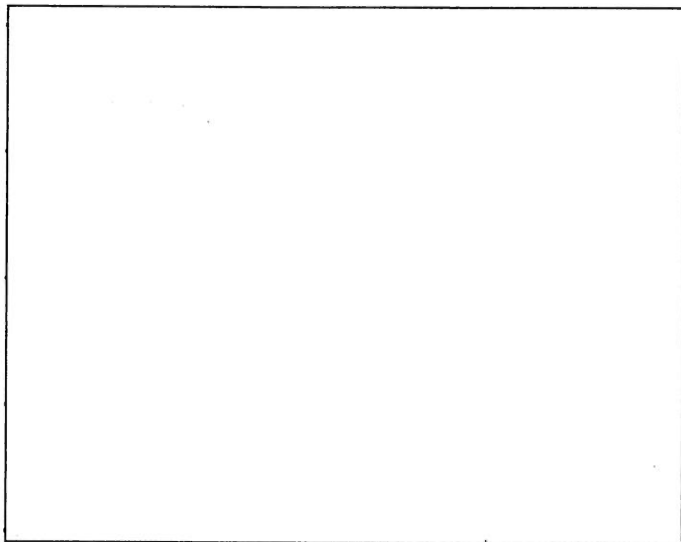
the megalodon
is powerful
and strong in
my opinion.



Also the megalodon's teeth has
been found around Maryland and
the Chesapeake Bay.

The megalodons isve strong
and powerful like our

state. The



megalodon is
a great way
to represent
our schools

and state. And the megalodon
is cool and is actuely my favorate
animal. I love the megalodon
and its strongness, and how
cool it is! Yay!

Sincerely,
Jason

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Feb 26 2026

Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St, Annapolis MD 21401

Dear ~~Senator~~ Jack Bailey,

I think the megalodon should be Maryland

official shark. One reason why I want

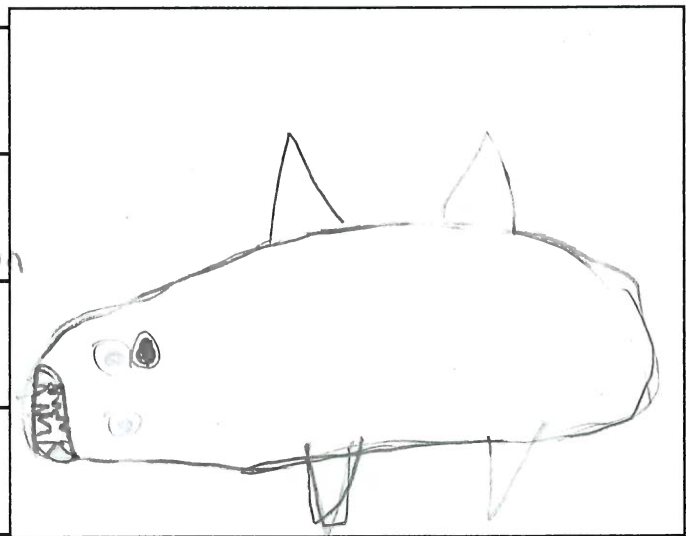
the megalodon should

be the Maryland official

shark because the megalodon

sharks were mostly in

Maryland. Also, a second



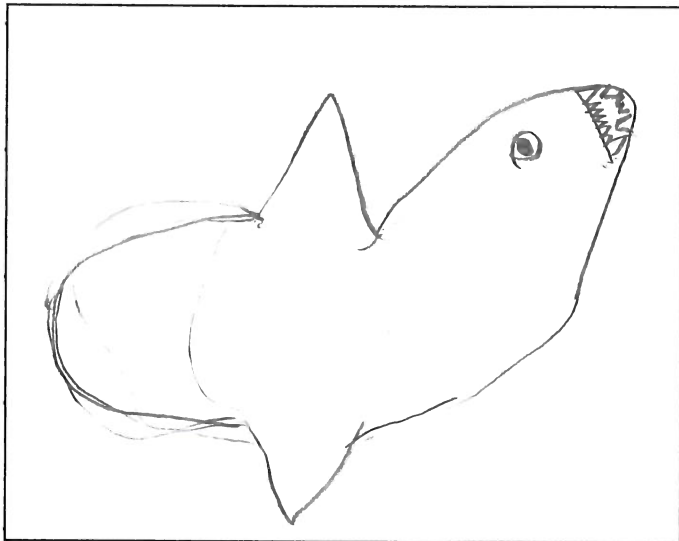
reason why I want the megalodon shark should

be Maryland official shark because megalodon

teeth were found in Maryland.

Finally, a last reason why I want

the megalodon to be Maryland official



shark is because the
Megalodon Shark was
extinct in Maryland
this is why the
Megalodon shark teeth

were found in Maryland. In conclusion,

this is why I want the megalodon to

be Maryland official shark. Sensibly

Abimael

Daris

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Senator Jack Bailey

District 29 James Senate,

Office building 11 Braden
Street Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I think the megalodon

shark should be the

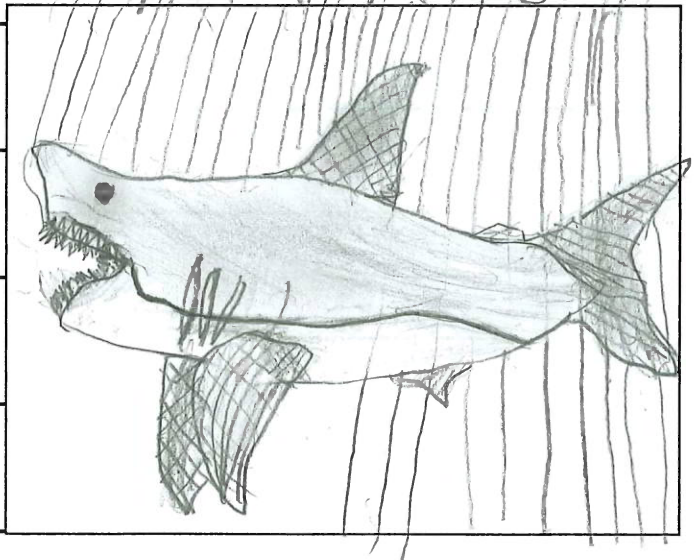
State shark. ~~Mary~~ Megalodon

has

been found in

Maryland. The

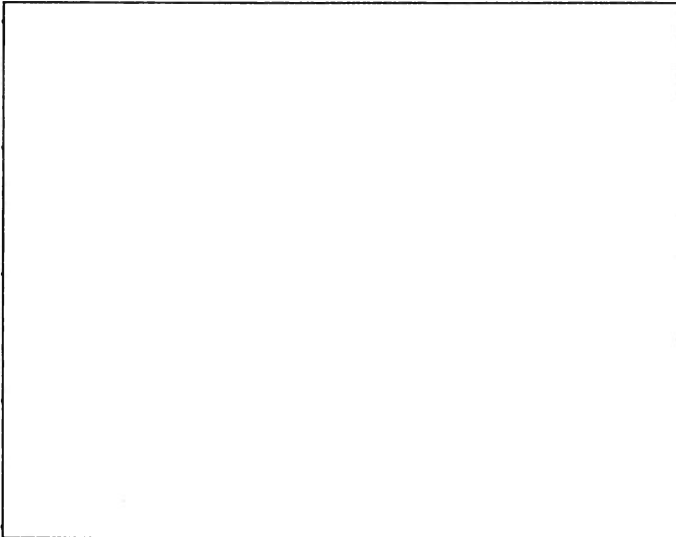
Megalodon shark



could represent Maryland

because Maryland is strong

like the megalodon respectfully
Daris.



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2025

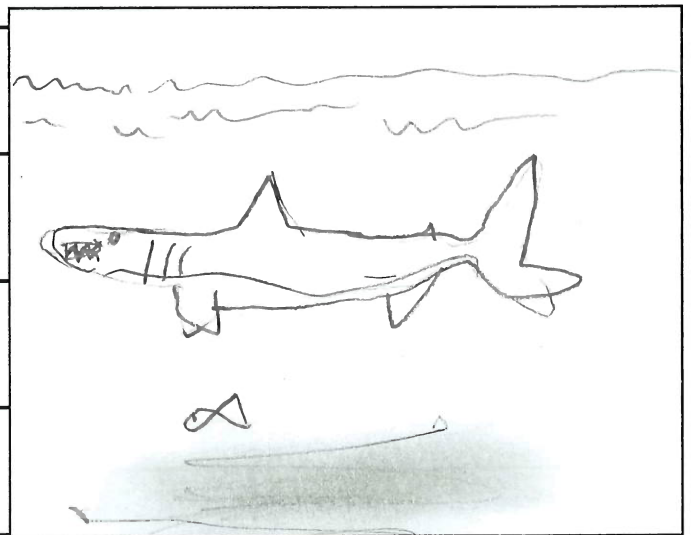
4500 William Ave

Beltsville MD 20705

Dear Senator Jack Bailey

How can we convince you
to make the Megalodon shark the state shark.

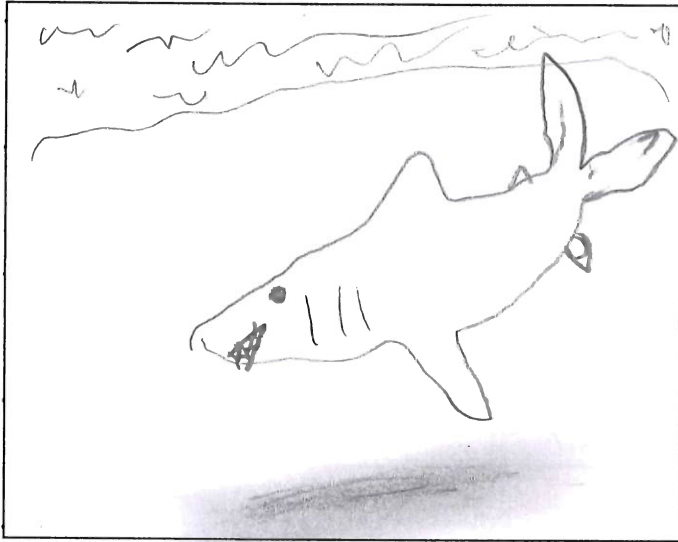
There are many
reasons why the
Megalodon is the state
shark. First most
of the Megalodon



fossils were found in Maryland. Next
if we put the Megalodon as the state
shark other states will think we are strong.

Also we have to honor the biggest shark. This is 3 reasons why the

Megalodon should be the state shark.



Sincerely,
Isaak

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 25, 2026

District 29 James

Senate office building
Annapolis

Dear Senator Bailey,

My name is Justin and I am

writing to ask you to make the

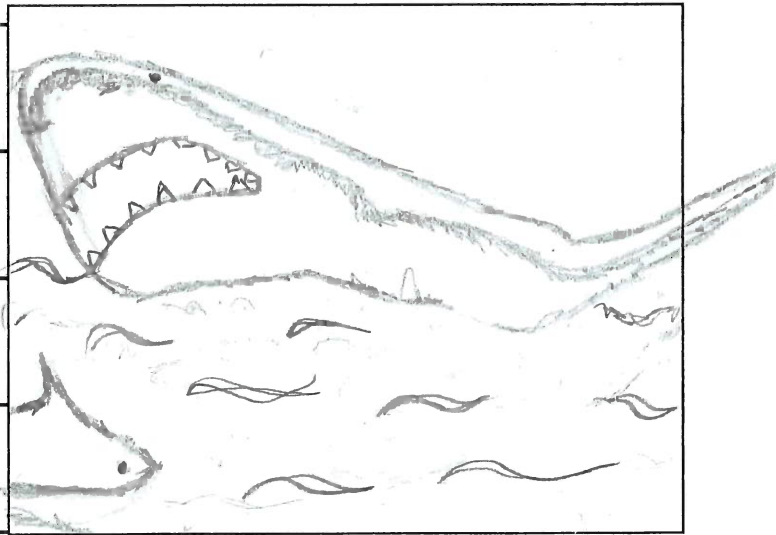
Megalodon the

Maryland state

shark. My first reason

is that many megalodon

fossils have been found

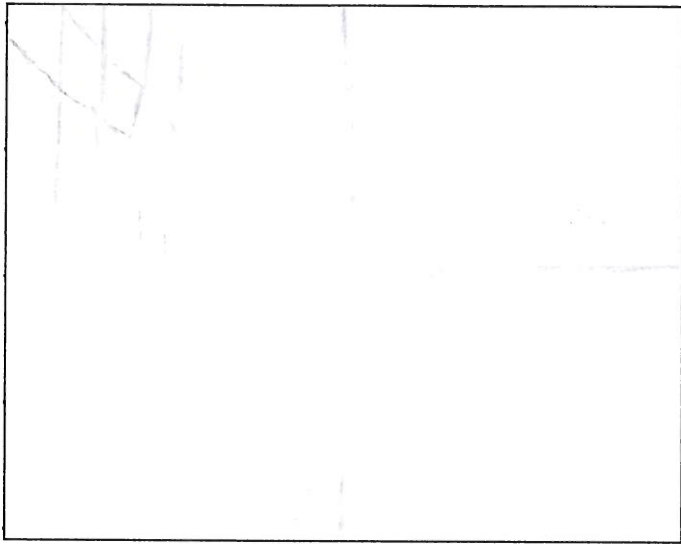


in Maryland and they're mostly found in

Calvert Cliffs. My second reason is that

the Megalodon can do many things by


itself showing that the Megalodon is strong and powerful. My last reason is



that the Megalodon is strong and powerful showing how powerful and strong Maryland is. That is why

the Megalodon should be Maryland's state shark. Thank you for your time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Justin 

Megalodon Shark Testimony IV.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
James Senate office building
11 Bladen street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

I'm writing about Megalodons and why it
should be MD state shark. In my opinion

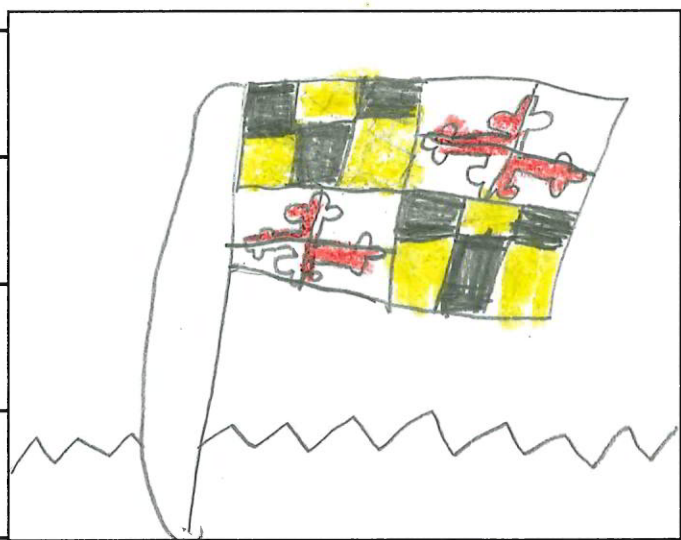
the Megalodon shark

should be MD state

shark because it's

really cool. My reason

is we could make

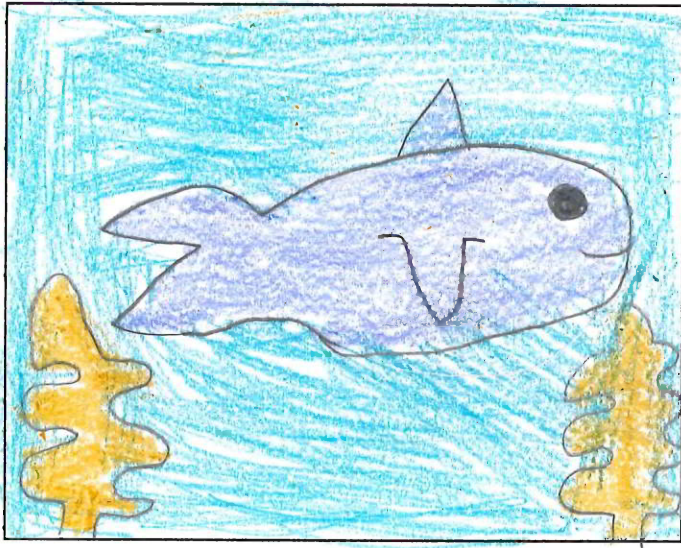


really cool, and important history. The

The Megalodon is also extinct. We are

going to have a powerful shark.

Our state could be known as a very powerful state. A Megalodon shark was



largest shark to ever live. This is also the first time I, and most likely others to do it too! Those

are all my reasons and opinions we should do it! I hope this letter convinces you! I also hope the Megalodon shark becomes our state shark! I will keep my fingers crossed until we get an answer!

Sincerely,

Emma

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

4300 Wicomico

Ave. Beltsville MD

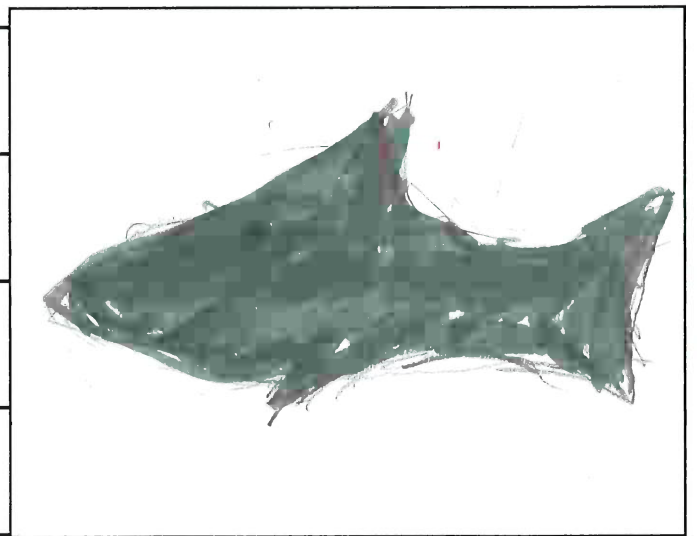
20705 February 24, 2026

Dear Senator Jack Bailey



I am writing this to ask you to
make the Megalodon the Maryland state
shark. I want this to

happen because the
Megalodon is a
huge difference to
Maryland. People have



found over than 1,700 fossilized Megalodon
teeth. There has been more than 50 teeth
from a single Megalodon ever found within

Maryland. If the Megalodon was Maryland's state shark, people would know that Maryland is



strong and powerful. Maryland has lots of Megalodons. Many of the most greatest

discoveries come from Calvert Cliffs, a Chesapeake Bay shoreline known for its rich fossil deposits. This is why I want to make the Megalodon Maryland's state shark. Even though Megalodons are extinct doesn't mean they are forgotten.

Respectfully,

Keenan

Christopher



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2026

4300 Wicomico Ave

Beltsville, MD, 20705

Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

I want the Megalodon shark to be the Maryland shark. 1 reason is because it would make us strong.

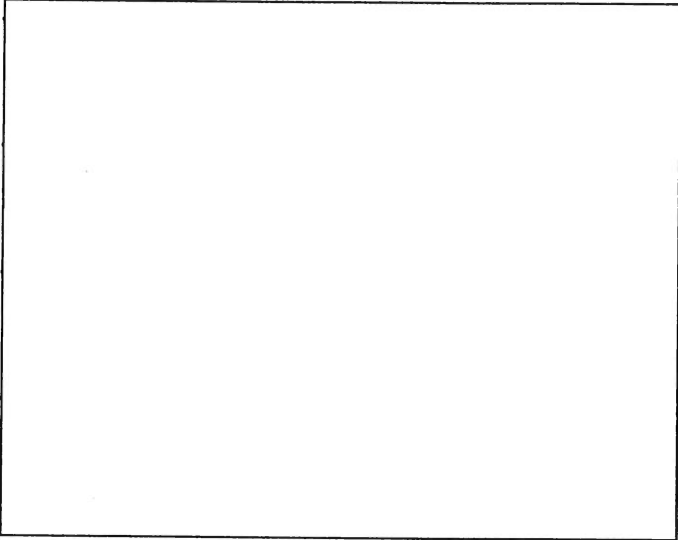
Another reason is that I want an extinct shark because I like them.

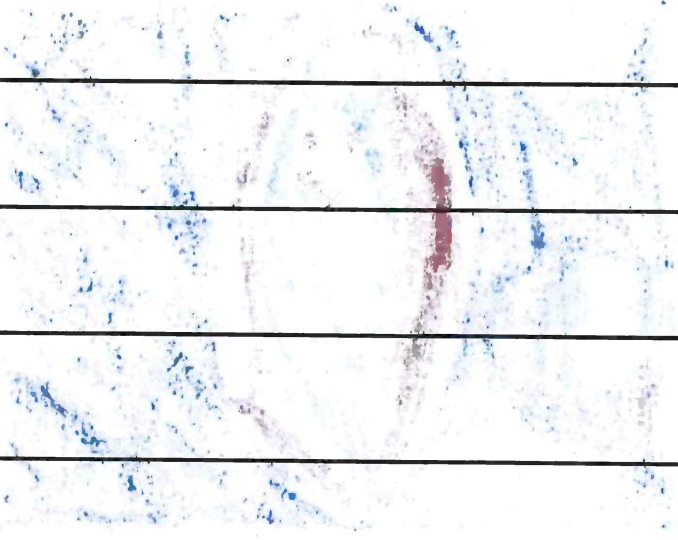
The final reason is

Megalodon stand out and so would we!

This is why I want it to be our state shark.









Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2026

4500 Wicomico Ave

Beltsville, MD 20705

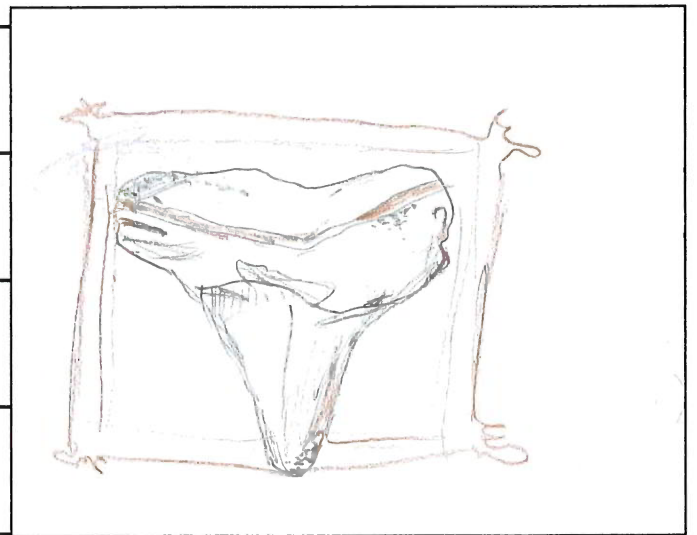
Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

I am writting to ask if the megalodon be
be the states shark. I think the megalodon
would be good for the
official state

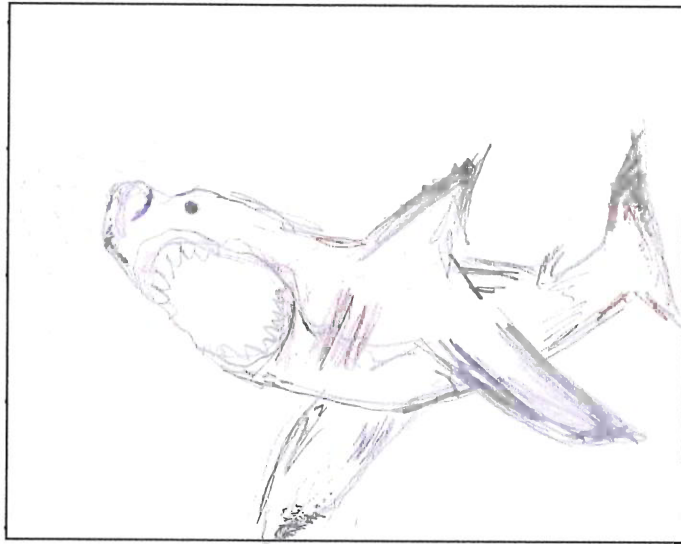
shark. Many megalodon
fossils were found in

Maryland mostly in
the Calvert Cliffs in Maryland.

Megalodon shark once were the strongest
shark once were the strongest shark being-



really strong and brave. Megalodon can
representation of Maryland making us a



a strong country.

People will want to

learn more about

Megalodon and others

sharks.

These are my reasons for the megalodon
to be our state shark.

Sincerely Alexa,

Alexa

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

Matthew district

29 James senate office building

11 Bladen street Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Senator Jack Bally,

I am Matthew and I'm going to write about
the Megalodon shark. I think the Megalodon shark
should be Maryland's

official shark. First,

Scientists have found many

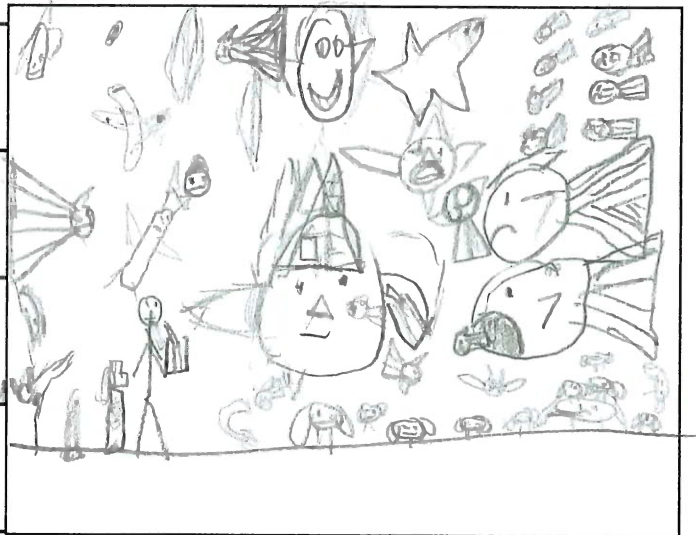
Megalodon teeth in Maryland

these fossils prove that the

Megalodon once lived in the same waters we

swim in today. Second, the Megalodon was huge

a Megalodon could grow up to 60 feet and was



biggest sharks that lived. Third the Megalodon
was powerful its huge teeth helped it eat bigger

animals with could show
that Maryland is a strong
state.

Respectfully Matthew.

Megalodon Shark Testimony IX.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 1st 2026

Senator Jack Bailey D.S. 29

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St. Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

My name is Gobby and I am writing

to ask you to make the megalodon

shark the Maryland State Shark believe

this is a great idea for

three important

reasons. first reason

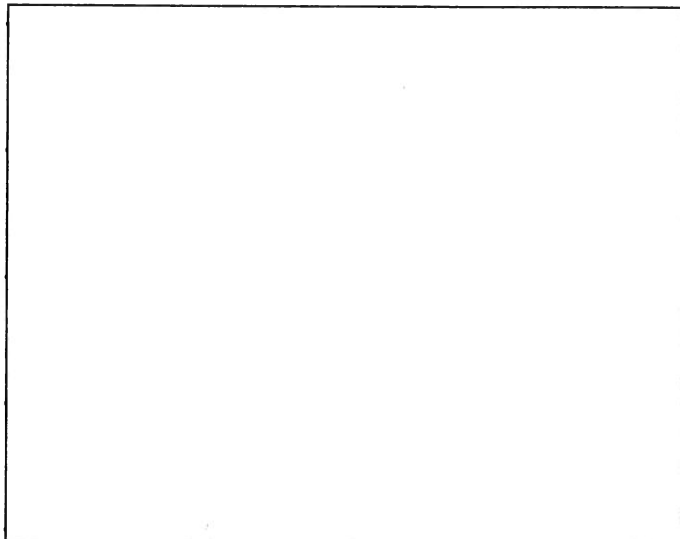
is famous Prehistoric

another reason is shark first appeared

I also think 17 million years ago

In conclusion, shark bill is

Sincerely Gobby Goffel Zoofers



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2nd

Senator Jack Bailey Dis. 29

James senate office building

11 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21404

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you to pass

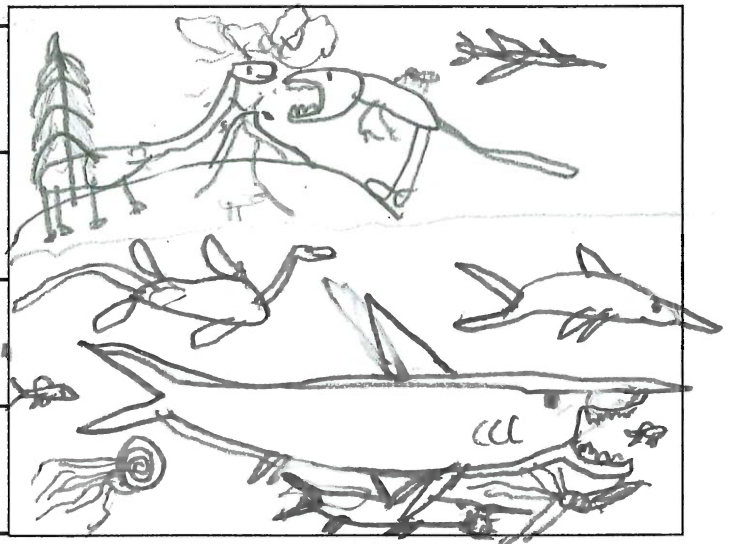
the bill to make the megalodon the

state shark. My

first reason is in

Maryland there

are lots of megalodon



Another reason is

the megalodon was a globally

animal. I also think the

megalodon should be the state

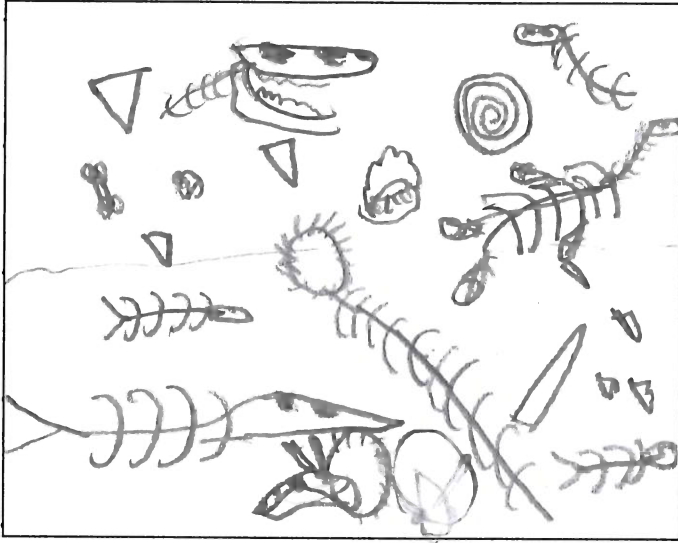
shark is most of the fossils is found in the Chesapeake Bay.

In conclusion It shall streng to

matland. A second reason is they

ate stonge.

sincerely, Jorge



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2 2026

Senator Jack Bailey Dis. 29

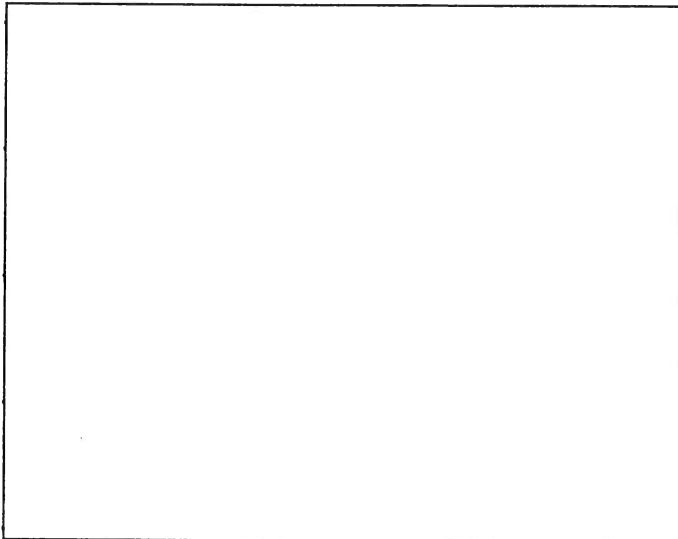
James Senale office Building
11 Bladen st, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I want to ask you to pass the bill to
make the Megalodon the state shark. My
reason are the Calvert cliffs have lots of fossilized
that tell us that we have
more power of it. Another
reason is that megalodon is
strong and MD is also strong

I think it is a good idea. In conclusion Thank
you for Reading.

sincerely Ashley



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2nd 2026

Senator Jack Bailey Dis 29

James Sonato Office Building
11 Bladen St. Asheville NC 28901

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you to pass the bill to
make the Megalodon the State Shark. My

first reason is because

they are extant next,

to be able to visit the

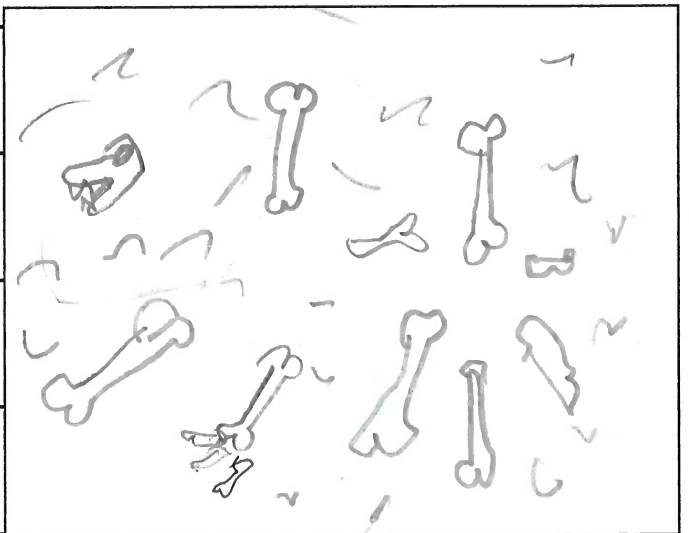
fossils in the museum.

Also The Megalodon

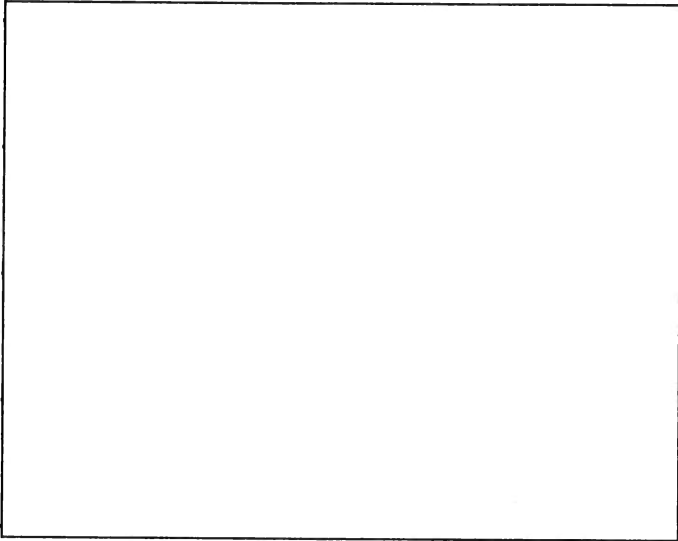
is the biggest shark in the world.

The Megalodon shark is the strongest

shark in the world.



sincerely villa



Four horizontal lines for writing, located to the right of the signature box.

Five horizontal lines for writing, located in the middle section of the page.

Two horizontal lines for writing, located at the bottom right of the page.

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 1st 2026

Senator Jack Bailey Dis. 29

James Senate office building
11 Bladen St. Annapolis Md 21404

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you

to pass the bill to make

The Megalodon the State Shark

First Reason is

because it is extinct

another Reason is

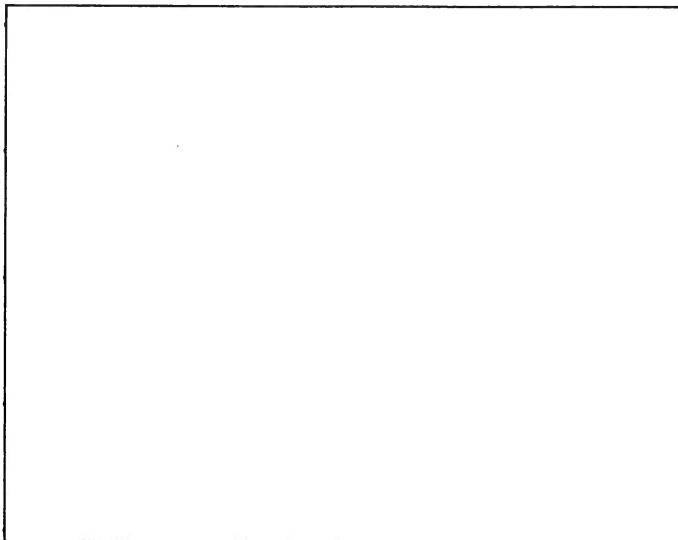
It has very

sincerely, Steven

strong teeth. I also think been

discovered across the state including

In Calvert. In conclusion I think the
Megalodon should be Megalodon the State Shark



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey

District 29 James Senate Office
Building 41 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401 S
Dear Senator Bailey,

I Am trying to write about Megalodon to pass
the bill to make the Megalodon the state shark.

In my opinion the megalodon

should be the state

marine sea animal

because it will be great

because it represents strong

brave and big. The megalodon represents brave

ready freedom and respecting

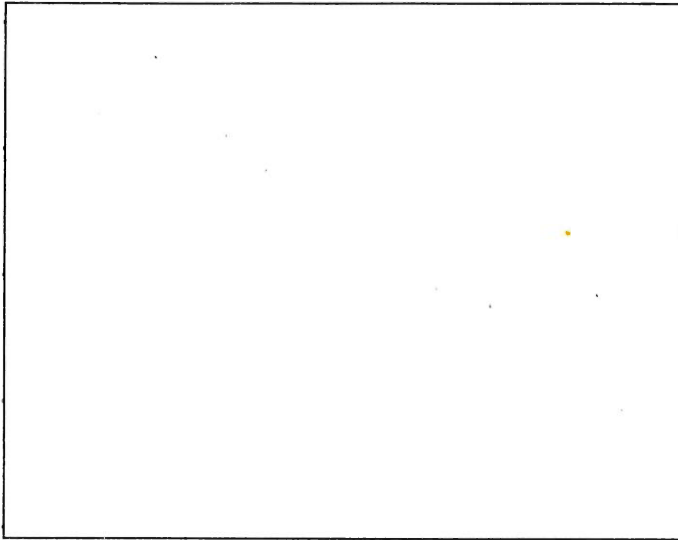
people and come in peace. In my opinion the megalodon

should be the state shark because it is very giant



And bits of teeth, are very sharp almost big

then a person hand



Sincerely,

Issac



Megalodon Shark Testimony V.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

^{Kyle} Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2026

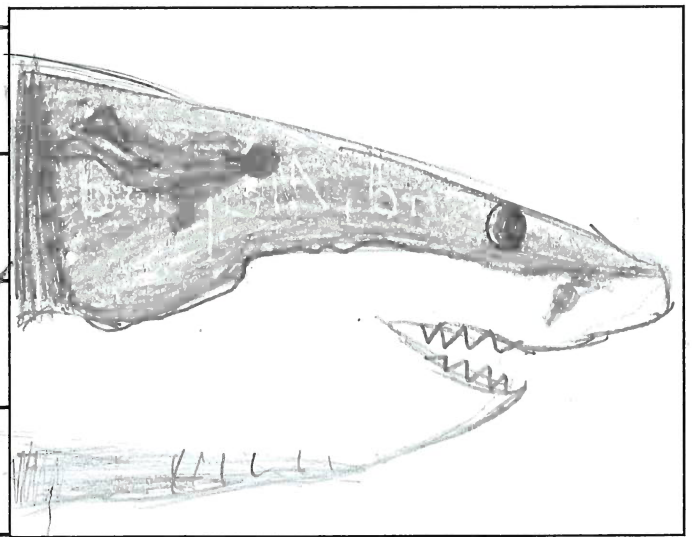
4500 Wicomico Ave

Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

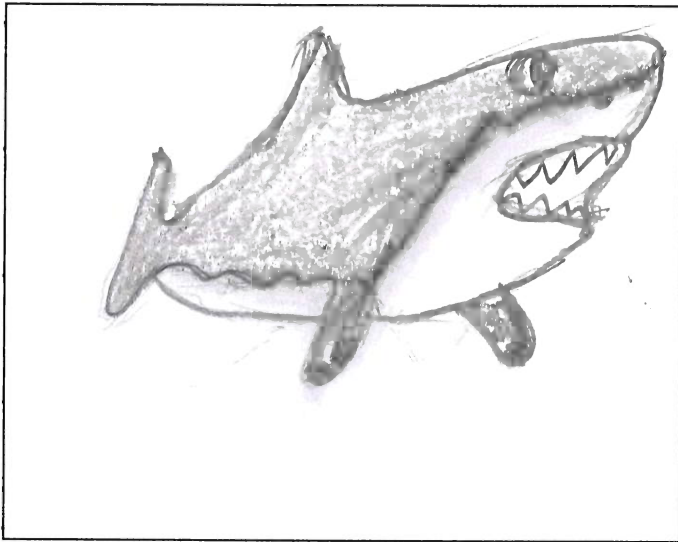
My name is Kyle and I am writing this to ask if we could have the Megalodon as Maryland's state shark.

The first reason that the Megalodon is really strong, and if we have a strong animal as our state



shark, people will know that we are strong. The second reason is that many fossils of the Megalodon have been found in Maryland mainly in the

Calvert Cliffs. The third and second to Final reason is
that scientists would want to learn about



the Megalodon and
many other sharks, if the
Megalodon was
Maryland's state shark.

The fourth and final

reason is that if we have all of the reasons
people would know that we are strong, that in
Maryland, Megalodon shark fossils are mainly
found in the Calvert Cliffs, and scientists would
want to learn a lot more about the Megalodon.

That is why I want the Megalodon to be our state shark.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kyle

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

January 20, 2026

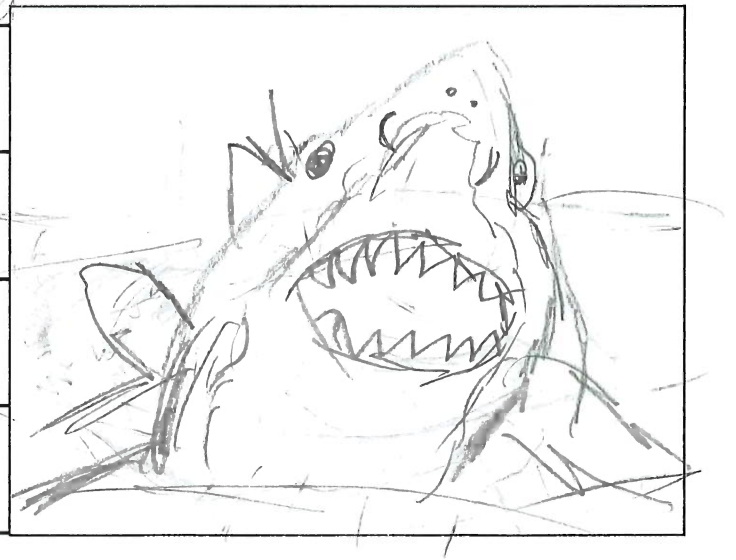
4300 Wilomica Ave

Beltsville MD 20705

Dear Senator Baily,

My name is Brisney, and I am writing this to ask you to make the Megalodon Shark, MD state shark.

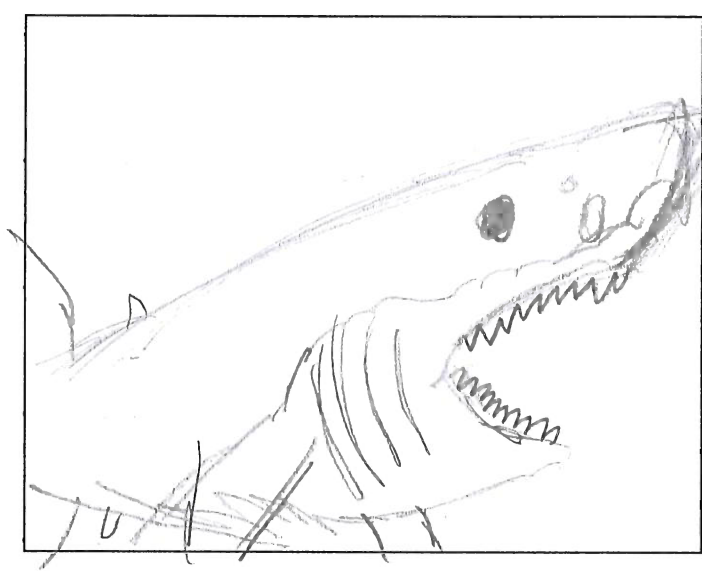
One reason is because most of the fossils are found in Maryland's



state and is found mostly on Maryland's counties. Another reason is because Maryland has every state

animal but except a state shark

so I think it should be the



Megalodon. A last reason is because Megalodon are big strong and brave witch makes MD

big, strong, and brave. That's why I think that the Megalodon shark should be our state

shark.

Sincerely

Brisney

Claudia

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 26, 2020

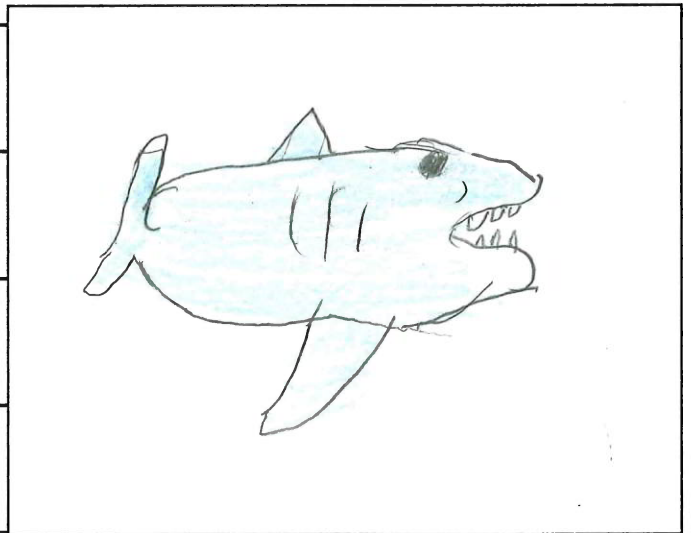
4300 Wicomico Ave Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

I am writing if to see if we can pass the bill to
make the Megalodon. I am asking to pass the bill to
make the Megalodon shark

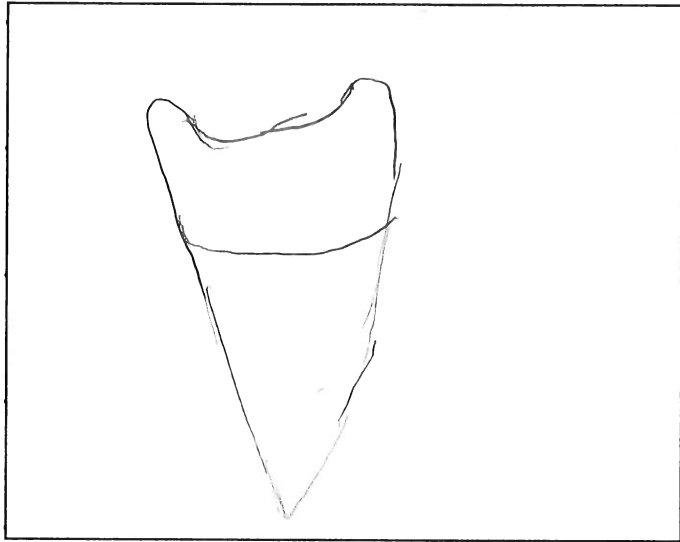
our official state shark.

There's been 50 teeth from
a single individual from the
Megalodon shark in



Maryland but mostly in Calvert Cliffs or Chesapeake Bay. Another reason is that the Megalodon shark is really stronger and powerful so that can make

Maryland stager and powerful. Lastly, we can learn
more about the Megalodon shark to know more about



it and see what else it can
do. These are my reasons
about the Megalodon shark
to be our state shark.

To: Senator Jack Baijndy

From claudia.

Riley

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 25 / 2026

James senate office

Building 11 bladen street Annapolis. MD 21401

Dear Senator Jack Bailey,

Hi I'm Riley I'm asking you to make

the Megalodo our state shark please

and thank you. I

bleve that

Megalodons are the

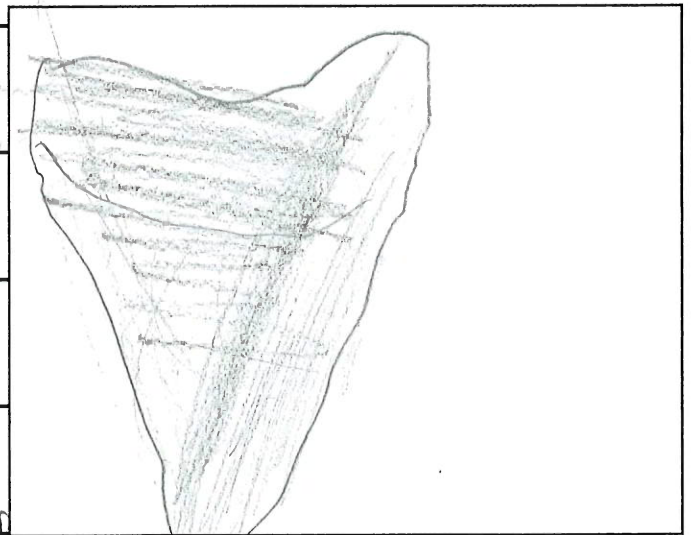
best Shark in the

world. My first reason

Megalodons fossils were found in Maryland

so that means they should be our state

shark. My second reason is Megalodons



are strong and that will show people were

strong. My final reason is Megalodons are

Brave and fearless so the army will



be brave and fearless.

I asking you

to make the

megalodon the state

shark.

Sincerely,
Riley

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 1st, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey District 29

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing this because if the bill can
make the megalodon our state official shark, I think that the

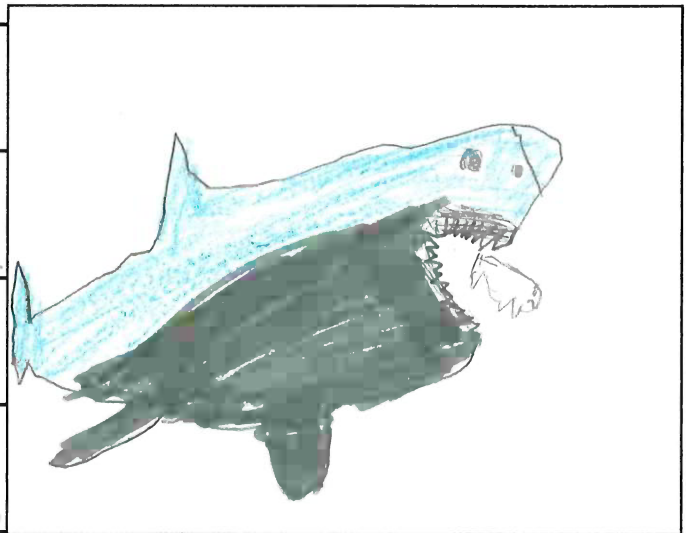
megalodon should be the Maryland

Official State Shark. Many megalodon

fossils were found in Maryland/calvert

cliffs. Also, the megalodon is the

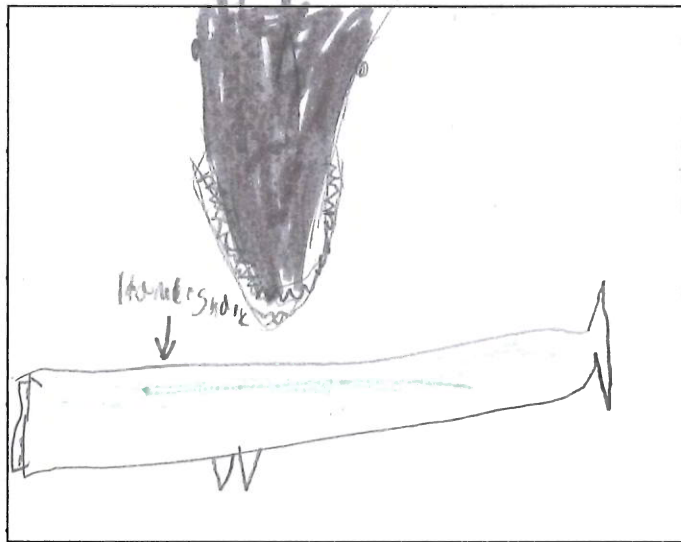
largest shark in the world which



makes it rare. I want to make the megalodon the States

Official Shark because the megalodon is powerful, lastly, if the megalodon

is powerful then we are powerful the whole Maryland.



Sincerely,

AYUM

Megalodon Shark Testimony VI.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

Gianna [redacted]

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 26th, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

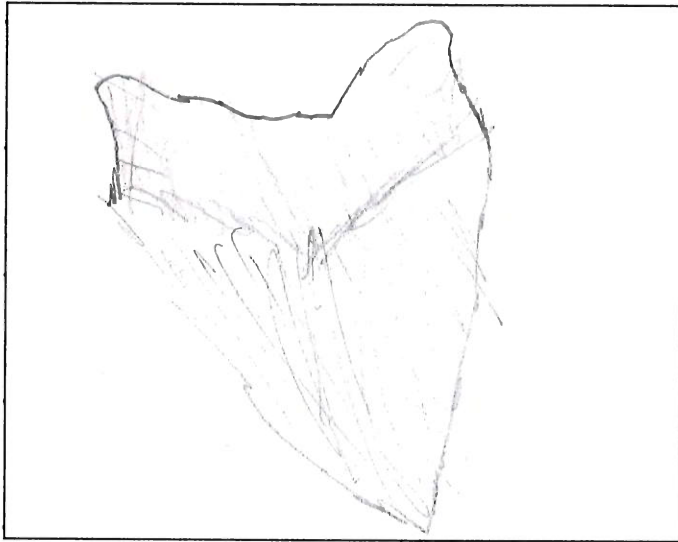
I am writing this to ask if you
can make the megalodon shark to make
it the state shark.

I think that the
megalodon should be
the state shark.



Reason are they
found lots of fossils so that
means that they have lots
of information. Also another

one is that it is the largest
and staggiest shark. Another one



Maryland's deep
fossil history says
that they been
found down
georges, Annapolis,

Caroline, Charles, Perchman, and rivers.

Reason 3 lastly the magnifier should

be our state shark because the

all also sites the cabinet machine

museum, have to the Maryland state.

Sincerely: George
100's senator: Jack
Bailey.

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 24, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey

District 29 James Senate
Office Building 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Senator Jack Bailey

I am writing to say that we should

make the megalodon the Maryland

State Shark. I think

the megalodon should
be Maryland's state

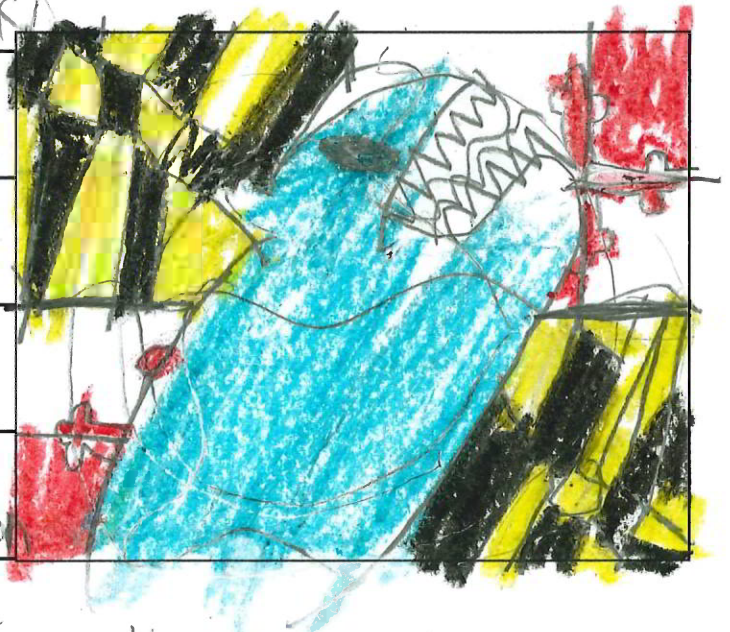
shark. One reason

is because the megalodon

was strong and it was the most

powerful animal. It is more powerful than

a T-Rex. So people will think that Maryland



is powerful. Another reason is because the
Megalon lives in Maryland in the



Chesapeake Bay, and a
third reason is because
most of the Megalon
fossils were found in
Maryland in Calvert cliffs.

This is why the Megalon should be
Maryland's state shark

Sincerely

Bryan

~~Bryan~~

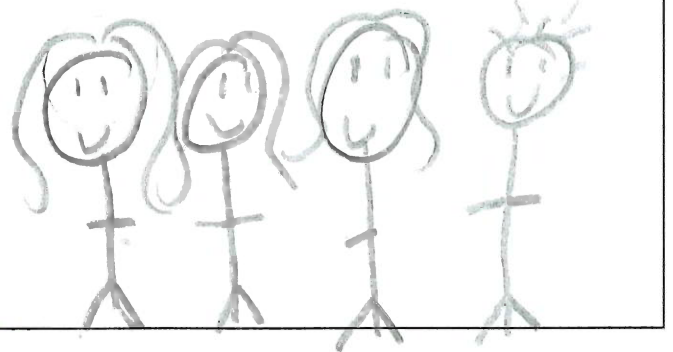
Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 3, 2026

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you to make the megalodon shark the Maryland state shark. One

reason is they are strong

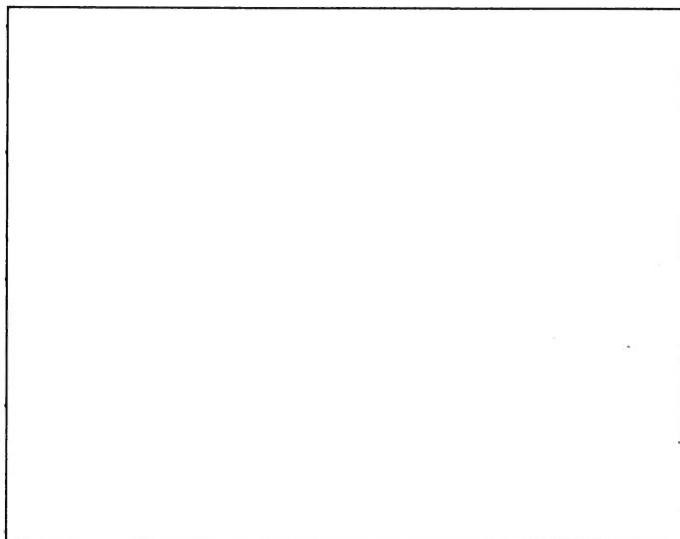


Another reason

is we found lots of their fossils.

Finally they are interesting to learn about

Sincerely, Emily



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2nd 2026

Senator Jack Bailey Dis. 2a

James Senate Office Building

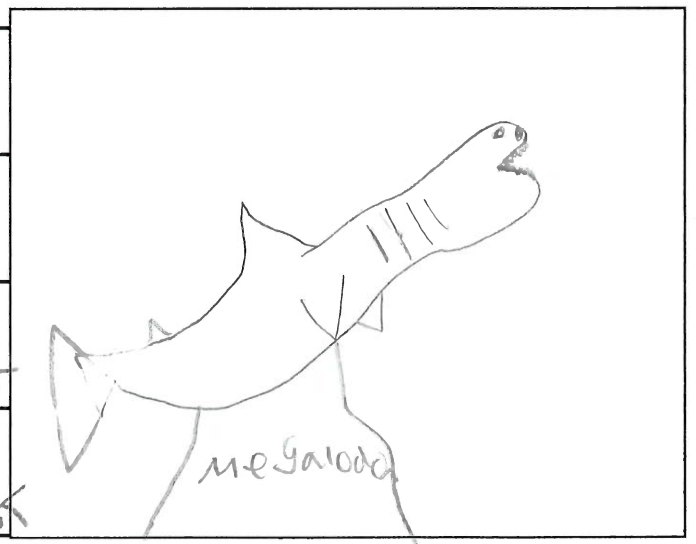
11 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you to pass the
bill to Senator Jack Bailey My first
reason is because

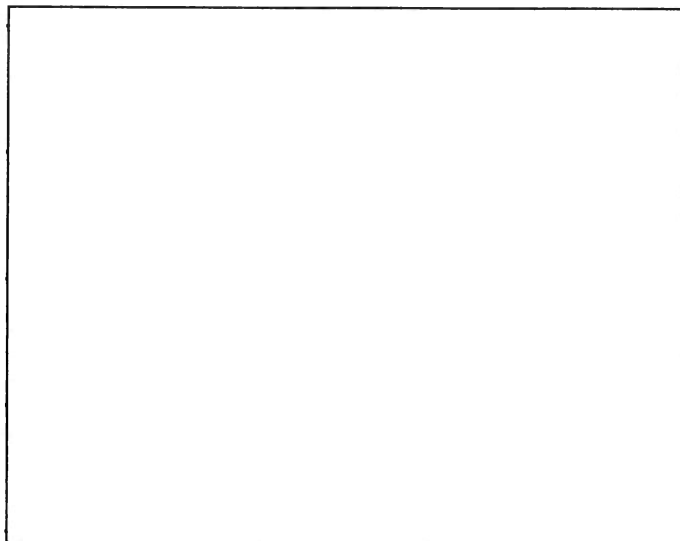
it was really famous
and extinct. My

Second reason is that
it was the biggest shark



Compared to the other sharks. My last reason
is that it was the biggest predator. Thank you
for reading my letter! Sincerely

Andrea



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 25, 2026

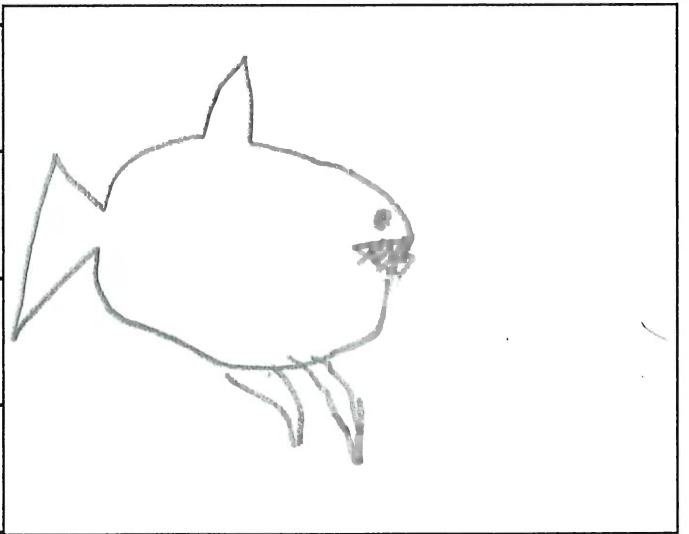
Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I think that the megalodon should be the Maryland state shark.

one reason why is that the megalodon is strong and tough.

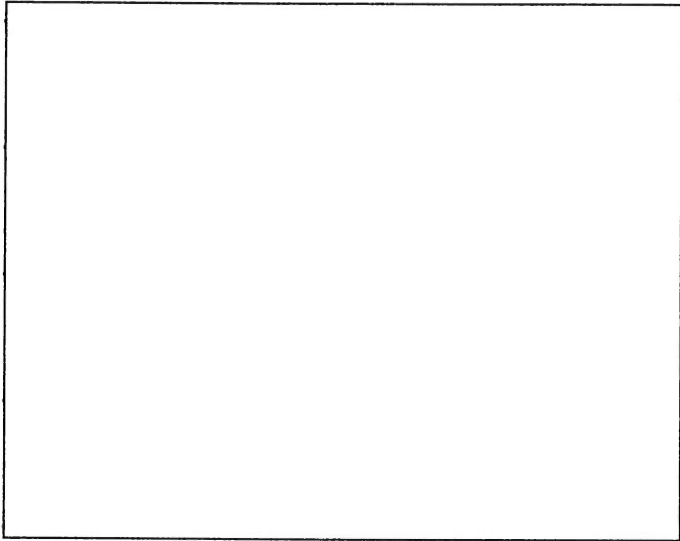


Therefore, we as Marylanders would

be tough and strong. Another reason why is a large amount of megalodon fossils are found in Maryland.

Sincerely,
Josiah

This means the megalodon is important
to Maryland's fossil history.



Four horizontal lines for writing, aligned with the right side of the box above.

Five horizontal lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.

Two horizontal lines for writing, located at the bottom right of the page.

Megalodon Shark Testimony VII.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

Ariadna

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2nd, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

James Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St, Annapolis MD

Dear Sen. Bailey,

I am writing to ask you to
make the Megalodon our official
State shark. One reason why is

there are lots of

megalodon fossils.

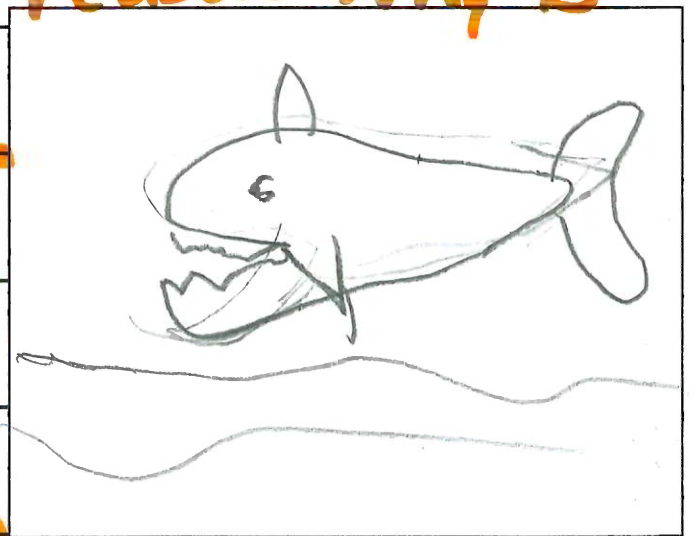
Another reason is

they have big teeth,

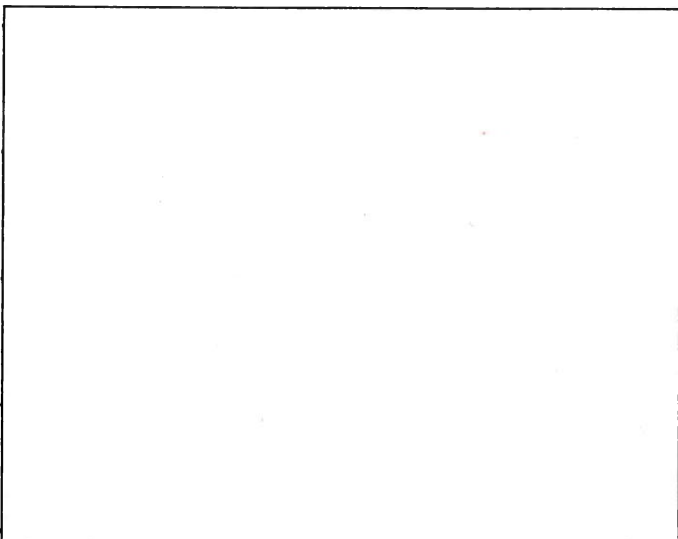
and little teeth too.

Finally I think the megalodon is

very cool



Sincerely, Ariadna



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 1st 2026.

Senator Jack Bailey Dis. 29

James Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St. Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

11 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401

I am writing to ask you to pass the bill to

make the Megalodon the State Shark. My

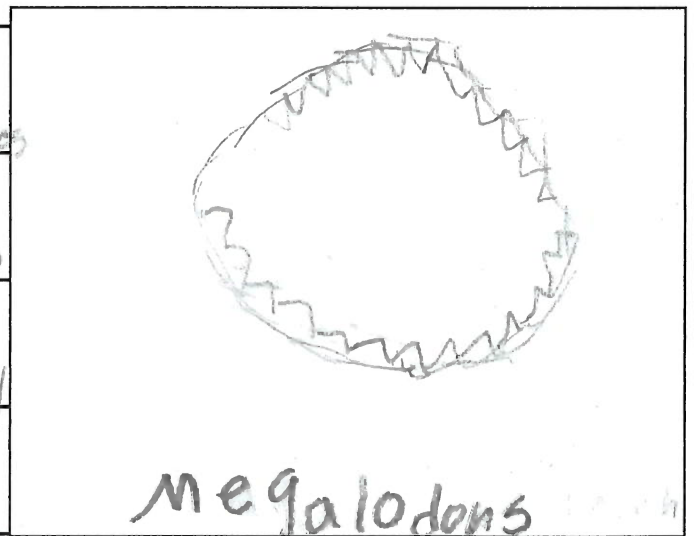
first reason is where

are all of the megalodon

fossils found. Megalodons

fossils are found globally

in shallow warm temperate



Megalodons

Another reason is, what caused them to go

extinct 3.6 million years ago? Megalodons

went extinct roughly 3.6 million years ago

Allison

due to a combination of climate-driven habitat
loss reduced prey availability. I also think
megatodons are cool. I conclusion is I think

It would be cool
to still have them.

Sincerely

Alison

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2 2026

Senator Jake Bailey Dis. 29

James Senate office building

11 Blodens St. Annapolis, MD

Dear members of the Maryland

My name is King I'm writing to ^{Senate}

ask to make the megalodon the

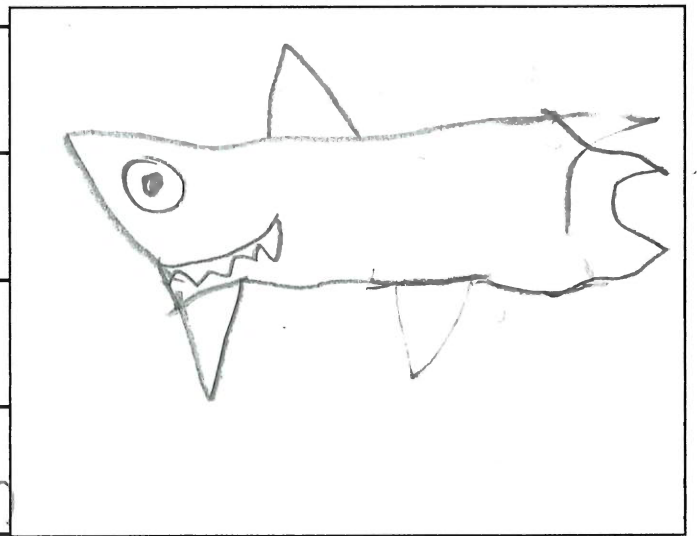
state shark

here are three

reasons why

you should do it.

first the megalodon



fossils is found in a lot of places

like Calvert, Anne, Arundel counties,

Another reason is the megalodon

is powerful → back

it had a bite force that was
10x a great white shark.

A final reason

Why is it

would interest

other kids to

learn about it.

In conclusion you should make the

medal don't state shark

sincerely King

Jenni

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 25th, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you
to pass the bill to make the megalodon

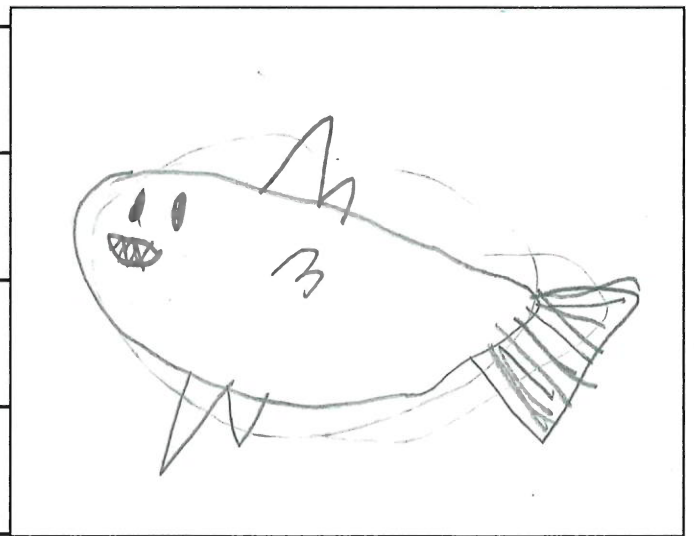
the state shark. my

first reason is ~~first~~

the megalodon looks

special my second

reason is the

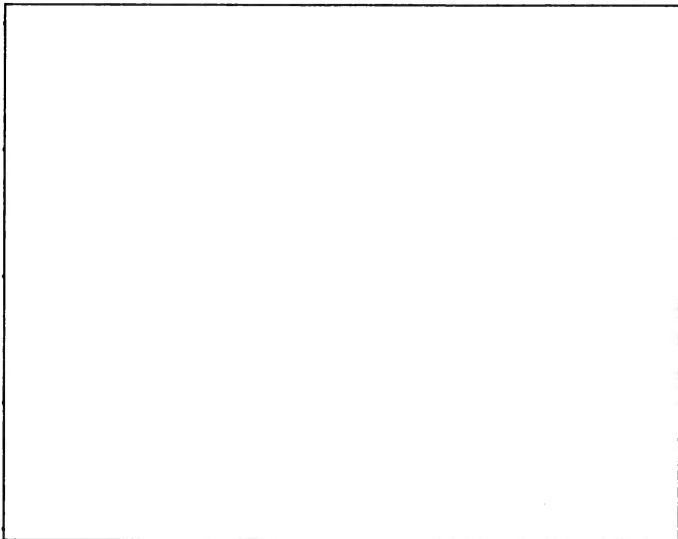


meg was amazing and powerful

my third reason is hearing about

megalodons is interesting. thank you for

reading my letter Sincerely, Jenni



Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 25th, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

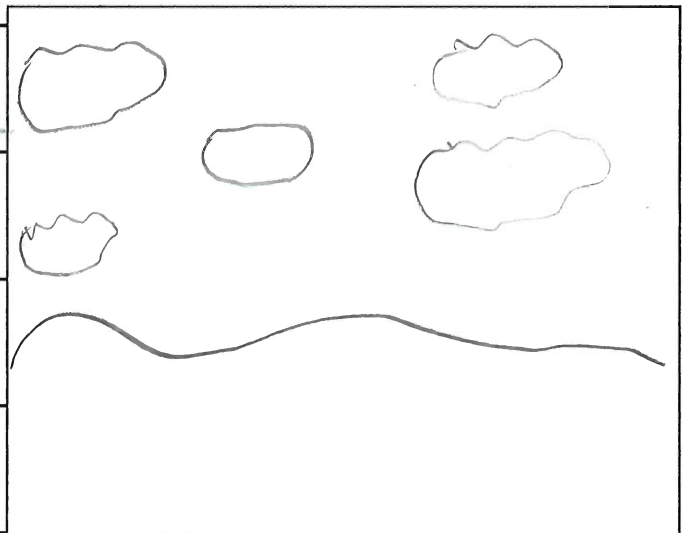
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I think the Megalodon should be the
State shark. Because it lived for a long
time and the Megalodon

had a bite force at least
three times stronger than a
T. Rex. Another is

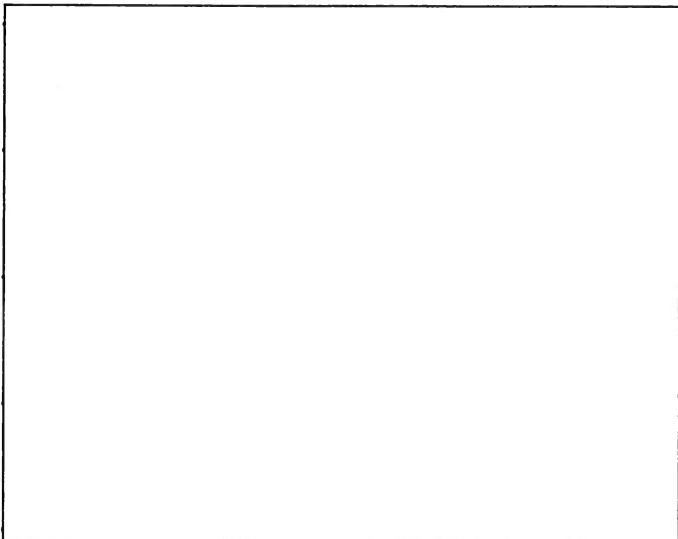
because the Megalodon



swam in the Atlantic ocean. One last reason
is because it is the largest shark
that lived for thousands of years.

Sincerely Aliyah Ah-lee-ya.

1



Megalodon Shark Testimony VIII.pdf

Uploaded by: Anna Shay

Position: FAV

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2nd 2026

Senator Jack Bailey Dis. 29

James shark office Building
11 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you to pass the bill to make

the Megalodon the state shark. My

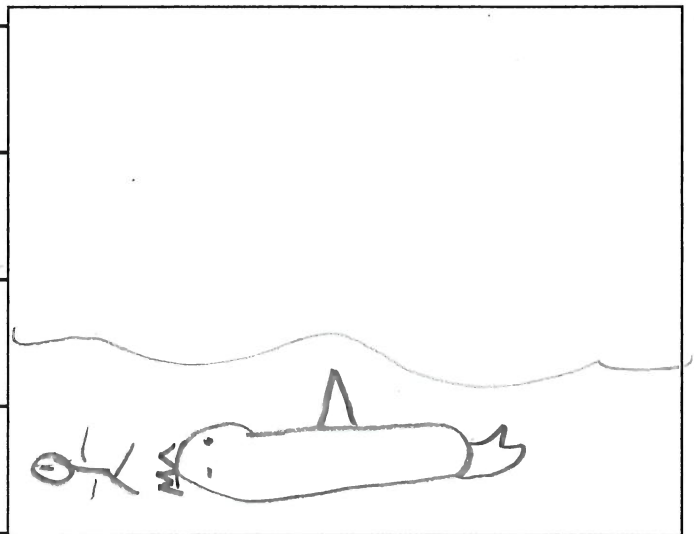
first reason is it is lot

of fossils in Maryland.

Another reason is they are

lot of shark. I also

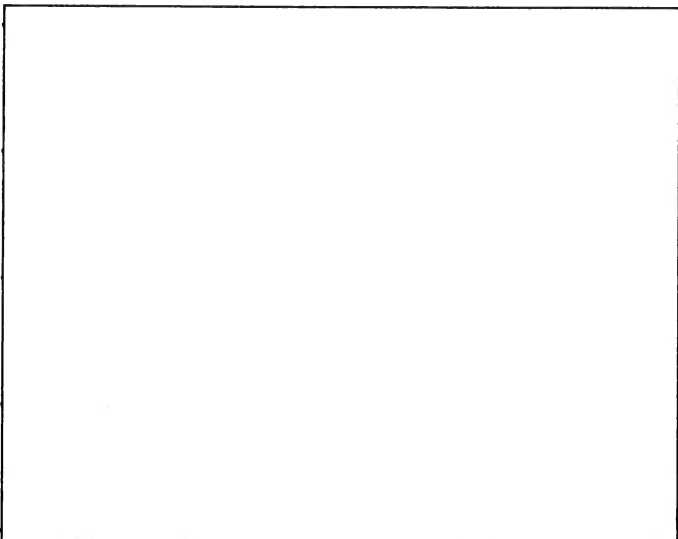
think shark are strong.



In conclusion, Megalodon is the best.

Sincerely Obed







Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

February 25th, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I think The megalodon should be

voted for Maryland's State Shark.

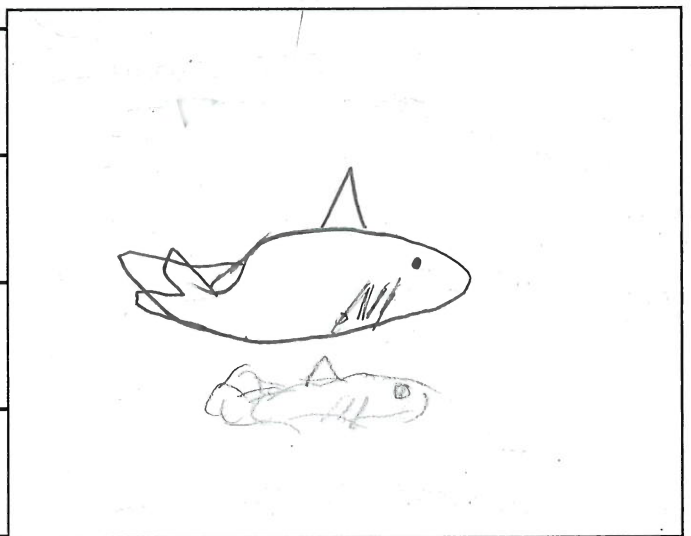
Here are my reasons

1. I think it's the biggest shark
to exist in Maryland

2. It's very rare to find the
fossils in Maryland.

3. The megalodon has lots of
teeth.

4. It's popular for the
largest shark to exist.

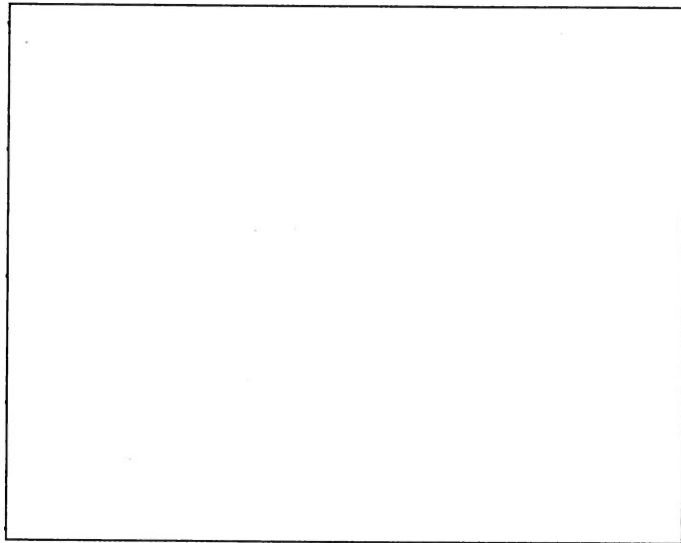


And the Meg also should be voted for

the biggest shark that has existed.

The meg is a huge aquatic animal.

Compared to the other sharks. The
Megalodon was the biggest shark in



the ocean I will be
passing the bill to
you to make the
Megalodon the Maryland's
State Shark. My first

reason is because it was the biggest

shark in the aquatic ocean. I think

everyone should vote for the megalodon

even tho the megalodon is extinct. I hope

the megalodon gets voted for Maryland's

state shark because it's the biggest
shark that was in the ocean

Sincerely, Zaharra

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2nd, 2026

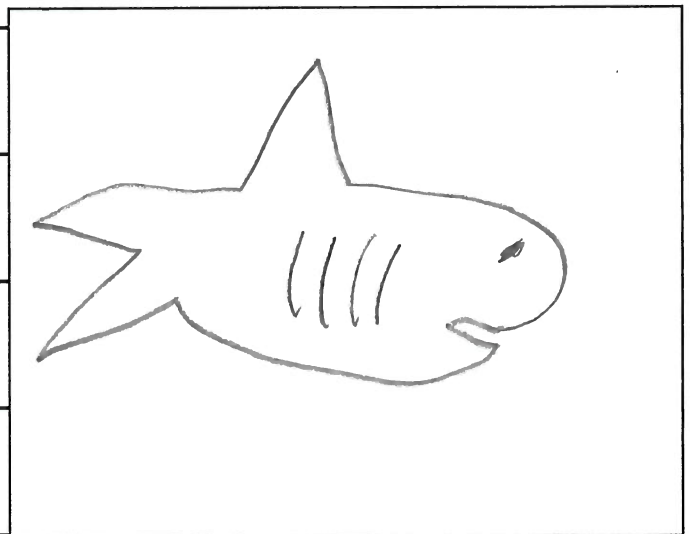
Senator Jack Bailey, District 29

Tiamis Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St. Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey

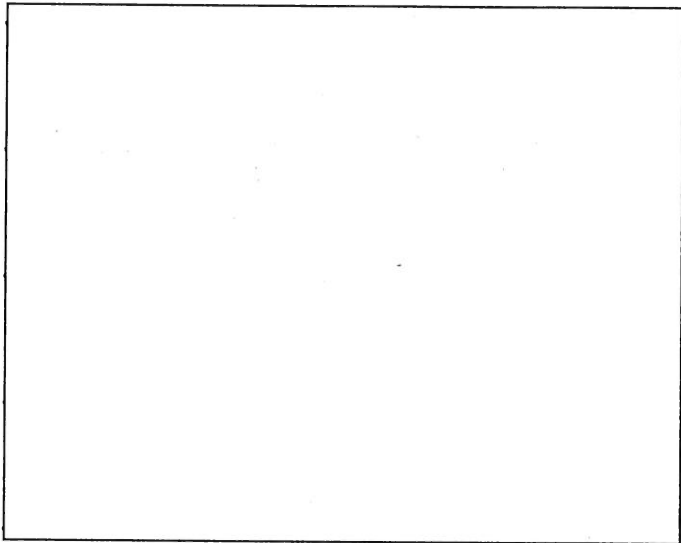
I am writing to ask you pass
the bill to make the Megalodon
the state shark.

one reason why is
that lots of M
Megalodon fossils
have been found in



Maryland. This shows it is important
to Maryland history. Another reason
is this shark is strong, so Marylanders
are strong!

My last reason is that everyone loves
sharks!



Mr. Brandon

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 2, 2026

Senator Jack Bailey Dis. 29

Senator Bailey

Dear James Senate Building

11 Garden St Annapolis, MD 21401

I am writing to ask you to

pass the bill to make the

Megalodon the State Shark. My

first reason is I

know that the megalodon died 3.6 million years

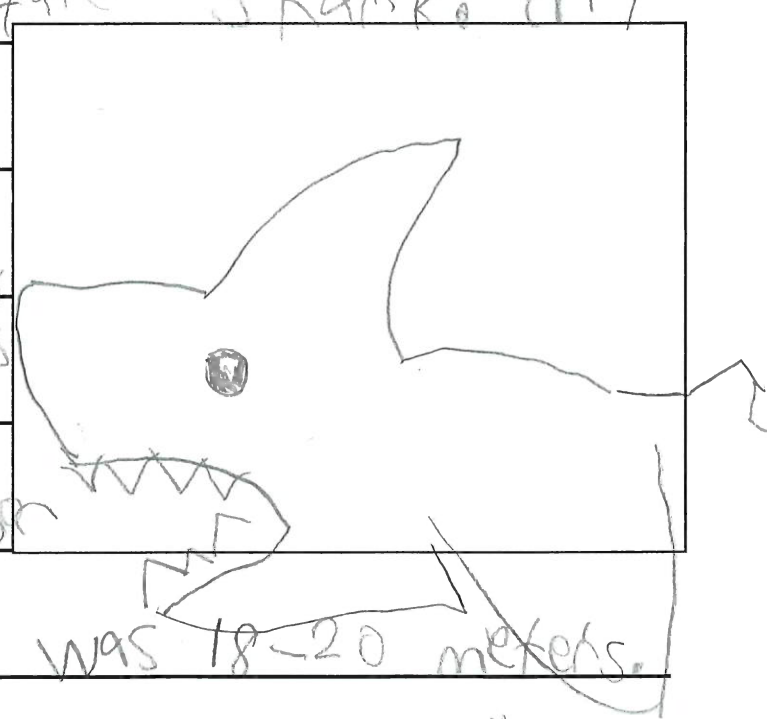
ago. another reason

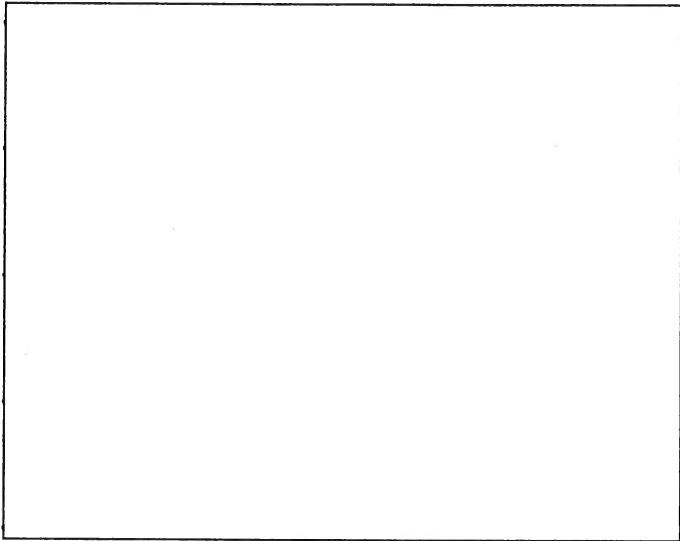
is that the megalodon was 18-20 meters.

I also think that megalodons weigh up to

75 tons. in conclusion baby megalodons

are super big. Sincerely,





2010

Megalodon Shark Bill Persuasive Letter

March 1st, 2026

Senator JACK Bailey DIS. 29

James Senate office building 11 Bladen St, Annapolis
MD 21401

Dear Senator Bailey,

I am writing to ask you to pass the bill
to make the megalodon the state shark.

My first reason is

Megalodon teeth in
Maryland, especially
at Calvert Cliffs

Another reason is largest

sharks that ever lived. I also think fossils
found in Maryland teach us about ancient
oceans and the animals that lived long ago

20/02
Sincerely



In conclusion,
According to National Geographic kids magazine
could grow up to 60 feet long.

SB0135 FAV_Cory Deltrove.pdf

Uploaded by: Cory Deltrove

Position: FAV

SB0135

Cory Deltrove
5562 Gayland Road
Halethorpe, MD 21227

March 10, 2026

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

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to advocate (FAV) for the passage of Senate Bill 135 to designate the megalodon as the State shark.

I am a passionate avocational paleontologist and I have first-hand experience searching for and finding fossilized megalodon teeth of all sizes. My hobby leads me to the beaches of Maryland once or twice a week. I also volunteer for the Calvert Marine Museum and its paleontology department.

I think the megalodon is ideal for Maryland's State shark because of the prevalence of its fossil record found in Maryland. It's an impressive, iconic shark and no other state has designated the megalodon as their state shark. Its fossilized teeth are the largest shark teeth that can be found and are highly desirable to many people.

I believe designating the megalodon as the State shark will increase awareness of Maryland's fossil history and it will spark conversations about protecting Maryland's precious Chesapeake Bay – the conservation of the extant marine life, including sharks, and the fossils. These are topics that Marylanders of all ages and backgrounds can find interesting and important.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cory Deltrove". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cory Deltrove

Bzdyk Megalodon Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Bzdyk

Position: FAV

SB0135: FAV

Emily Bzdyk
48015 Freehold Drive
Lexington Park MD, 20653

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

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Emily Bzdyk and I'm an entomologist, naturalist and an avocational paleontologist who has been lucky enough to call Maryland home for almost 16 years. The Calvert cliffs along Chesapeake's western shore are a location known worldwide for their production of well-preserved Miocene-aged fossils. Among those fossils, arguably none is more popular or sought after than the teeth of the extinct megalodon. These sharks left behind their giant, serrated teeth for fossil hunters and scientists alike to discover.

Research continues to uncover exciting new details about the lives of these sharks. Recently, here in Maryland, a collaboration between researchers from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the Calvert Marine Museum found that the megalodon enhances the strength of its massive teeth with zinc deposits.

Finding "a meg" is a particular thrill for fossil hunters that sometimes drives a lifelong search, and a passion for the hobby. Calvert County's public shoreline parks such as Calvert Cliffs state park and Flag ponds are popular destinations to which hunters come from far and wide to seek this charismatic fossil. Therefore, it seems only fitting that the megalodon should serve as Maryland's state shark.

Sincerely,

Emily Bzdyk



2/13/2026

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB135.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

—
Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 401
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.maryland.gov

—
District Office
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

March 12, 2026

Senate Bill 135 – State Designations - State Shark - Megalodon

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 135. This bill would designate the megalodon (*Otodus megalodon*) as the State shark.

As the Senator from District 29, I am proud to represent the Calvert Marine Museum, which has been previously designated by the General Assembly as the Maryland State Paleontology Collection and Research Center. I have introduced this legislation at the request of the Museum, which houses over 1,700 fossilized megalodon teeth and believes this is an appropriate recognition based on their research into the megalodon's part in our State's natural history.

Megalodon lived in this area for millions of years, and, although extinct, is a reminder of the importance played by modern and prehistoric sharks in shaping our ecosystem. At nearly 80 feet long, the megalodon was the largest shark that ever lived and one of the largest predators ever. Their fossilized teeth have been predominantly found in Calvert County along Calvert Cliffs, but they are also found in Anne Arundel, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties. Fossil whale and dolphin bones have been found along Calvert Cliffs that preserve bite marks made by predatory and scavenging activities by megalodon.

Designating the megalodon as the State shark will not only recognize its importance in our State's history but also help support the efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum. For that reason, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 135. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey', written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey

Senate megalodon letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Luke Schwenk

Position: FAV

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

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for legislation designating *Otodus megalodon*, commonly known as the megalodon, as the Maryland state shark.

I am currently completing a Master of Science degree in palaeobiology at the University of Bristol, in the United Kingdom. My passion for understanding this unbelievable creature began during my undergraduate degree at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where I researched megalodon teeth for my undergraduate thesis. During this time, I was regularly scouring the beaches of Calvert Cliffs in search of megalodon teeth.

Though this species has been lost to time, its public interest rivals the Earth's most iconic predators, such as the great white shark and the dinosaur *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Designating the megalodon as Maryland's state shark presents an opportunity to stand out among the other states and promote tourism and celebrate one of the most incredible fossil collecting locations on the planet, the Calvert Cliffs, as well as the nearby gem, the Calvert Marine Museum.

I respectfully ask that you support this legislation.

Thank you for your service to my beloved home state.

Sincerely,
J. Luke Schwenk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Luke Schwenk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

SB0135, Oral Testimony, Stephen Godfrey, March 12,

Uploaded by: Stephen Godfrey

Position: FAV

SB0135 (Senate Bill) Support March 12, 2026

Megalodon, Maryland State Shark

March 10, 2026

From: Stephen J. Godfrey Ph.D.

Curator of Paleontology, Maryland Center for Paleontology Collection and Research,
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland

Home address: 2710 Hatteras Lane, Lusby, Maryland 20657

To: Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephen Godfrey, and I am the Curator of Paleontology at the Maryland Center for Paleontology at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons Maryland, and I am joined by my daughter Zoey who is here to help hold up our megalodon poster and pass out megalodon-tooth mementos.

I present in support of SB0135 that would designate the extinct giant shark Megalodon as Maryland's State Shark.

At nearly 80 feet long, MEGALODON was the largest shark that ever lived. We like the adage, GO BIG OR GO HOME.

Its fossilized teeth have been found in 7 counties in Maryland. Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Prince Georges, and St. Mary's County.

It lived in the Atlantic Ocean that flooded over the eastern half of Maryland for more than 10 million years.

Remarkably, no shark has ever been designated as a State Shark.

There are many living and extinct species of sharks known from Maryland, but the colossal shark MEGALODON is the most iconic!

We did not choose MEGALODON because it is extinct and represented only by fossils, but rather because it is a shark...

MEGALODON reminds us of the importance played by prehistoric and modern sharks in shaping both past and present ecosystems.

And MEGALODON is such an excellent educational tool.

As evidence of that, I would like to conclude by reading part of an unsolicited email about this bill from Ms. Anna Shay, a 4th Grade Teacher at Beltsville Academy, which is part of PG County Public Schools.

“The students began their research today, using National Geographic and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, learning about the megalodon shark and its rich connections to Maryland, even PG County! They were fascinated by fossilized remains of this shark being discovered so close to their communities.”

MEGALODON AS OUR STATE SHARK: It’s about choosing state icons that represent the great superlatives about this place we call home.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Godfrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S" and a stylized "G".

Stephen J. Godfrey

SB0135, Written Testimony re Megaondon MD State Sh

Uploaded by: Stephen Godfrey

Position: FAV

SB0135 (Senate Bill) Support March 12, 2026

Megalodon, Maryland State Shark

March 10, 2026

From: Stephen J. Godfrey Ph.D.

Curator of Paleontology, Maryland Center for Paleontology Collection and Research,
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland

Home address: 2710 Hatteras Lane, Lusby, Maryland 20657

To: Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Senator Brian J Feldman, Vice-Chair Senator Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of SB0135 (sponsored by Senator Bailey) and its companion bill HB 0097 (sponsored by Delegate Morgan). These bills would designate the extinct giant shark Megalodon as Maryland's State Shark.



Figure 1. Life restoration of the extinct megatooth shark, megalodon. Art by Tim Scheirer.

No shark has ever been designated as a State Shark.

There are many living and extinct species of sharks known from Maryland.

In addition to the many species of sharks that live seasonally in both the Chesapeake Bay and along our Atlantic Coast, there are more than 60 species of extinct sharks known from their fossilized teeth found in Maryland.

That being the case, here at the Calvert Marine Museum, we think it's time for Maryland to lead the way and designate the first, and our own State Shark.

Of all the sharks to choose from, the colossal shark MEGALODON is the most iconic (Figure 1).

It is thought that they could have grown to be nearly 80 feet long, the largest shark that ever lived. We like the adage, GO BIG OR GO HOME. So, for us, megalodon is the obvious choice.

The fossilized teeth of megalodon (Figures 2 and 3) have been found in at least 7 counties in Maryland (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties). No modern shark lives in Maryland waters year-round. Megalodon called Maryland home for more than 10 million years.

Megalodon reminds us of our rich fossil history...and it is also a reminder of the importance played by prehistoric and modern sharks in shaping both past and present ecosystems. Sharks are like canaries in a coal mine. If as top predators, shark populations and species diversity are great, then that means the rest of the marine ecosystem is doing well.

We did not choose megalodon as our candidate to become our State Shark because it is extinct and represented only by fossils, but rather because it is a shark...the largest and most iconic shark of all time! Because it is extinct does not make it any less of a shark.

If we didn't go with megalodon, which of the 30 living species of shark species known from the Chesapeake Bay and our coastal Atlantic shore would we choose? Suppose we went with the chain dogfish or the bull shark...those would be cool, but they lack the gravitas and popular appeal as compared to that of megalodon. Because we chose the Baltimore Oriole as our State Bird, did not render as insignificant all the other species of birds that call Maryland home. Just the opposite should happen. By choosing megalodon as our State Shark, should help bring attention to all sharks, both living and extinct that call or have called Maryland home.



Figure 2. A large tooth from Maryland from the megatooth shark, Otodus megalodon (aka Megalodon). Photo by S. Godfrey.



*Figure 3. Calvert Marine Museum Paleontology Collections Manager, John Nance with the only associated set of megalodon teeth ever found in Maryland. (An associated set of teeth are those from one shark that died, preserving most of its teeth in one place, as opposed to those teeth that were shed naturally throughout its life, the usual teeth that are found.)
Photo by S. Godfrey.*

We have this one chance to be the first to designate a State Shark, so let's go big. If we don't, there are other States that could do that. Megalodon as our State Shark would be something we could all be proud of and megalodon is such an excellent educational tool.

The following is part of an unsolicited email in response to this Bill from Ms. Anna Shay, a 4th Grade Teacher at Beltsville Academy, one of PG County Public Schools.

“The students began their research today, using National Geographic and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, learning about the megalodon shark and its rich connections to Maryland, even PG County! They were fascinated by fossilized remains of this shark being discovered so close to their communities. We covered so many cross-curricular connections from the senate as a governing body, the history of the megalodon shark, and what a formal and persuasive essay looks like!

I cannot overstate my appreciation for all of you being so helpful and active in the education of my students. Making learning authentic through real-world experiences, connections, and projects is so important to our classroom community — and (that) is what makes learning so (much) fun! It means the world to me, and to them.”

MEGALODON AS OUR STATE SHARK: It's about choosing state icons that represent the great superlatives about this place we call home.

The following are some examples of the great publicity to date, re having Megalodon as our State Shark!

<https://www.chesapeakebaymagazine.com/megalodon-for-state-shark/>

WMAR-2 <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/yBIQZjkj9nM>

<https://thebaynet.com/calvert-marine-museum-supports-designation-of-megalodon-as-marylands-state-shark/>

https://www.wboc.com/news/maryland-s-megalodon-lawmakers-propose-prehistoric-behemoth-as-official-state-shark/article_9b305401-7334-4fb0-983c-911a63229fe5.html

[Megalodon: What Happened to the Ocean's Fiercest Predator? | HISTORY](#)

<https://www.popsoci.com/environment/megalodon-state-shark-maryland/>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/megalodons-went-extinct-millions-of-years-ago-the-prehistoric-predator-could-become-marylands-official-state-shark-180988108/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/proposed-megalodon-bills-maryland-ocean-calvert-state-shark/>

The Calvert Marine Museum would like to thank Marianne Harms, Senator Jack Bailey, Delegate Todd Morgan, and their respective staff for their help in this attempt to designate megalodon as Maryland's State Shark.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Godfrey". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Stephen J. Godfrey Ph.D.
Curator of Paleontology
Maryland Center for Paleontology Collections and Research
Calvert Marine Museum
14150 Solomons Island Road
Solomons, Maryland 20688

SB 135 - Harper Coale.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Coale

Position: FAV

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 135 State Designations – State Shark – Megalodon

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Harper Coale, I am 11 years old, and I live in Maryland. I am writing to respectfully ask you to support Senate Bill 135, which would designate the megalodon as Maryland's official State shark.

I think the megalodon is the perfect shark to represent Maryland. Even though it lived millions of years ago, its fossils—especially its huge teeth—are still found in many parts of our state, including along the Calvert Cliffs and in several counties across Maryland. This means Maryland is one of the best places in the world to learn about these amazing prehistoric animals. Many people, including kids like me, enjoy searching for fossilized shark teeth along the Bay and learning about the creatures that once lived here.

The megalodon was the largest shark that ever lived and one of the most powerful predators in Earth's history. Learning about it helps students understand science, paleontology, and the natural history of our state. Designating the megalodon as the State shark would highlight Maryland's unique fossil heritage and encourage more people—especially young people—to explore museums, beaches, and science.

Maryland already has many official state symbols that represent our history and environment. Adding the megalodon would celebrate the incredible prehistoric past of our region and the scientific discoveries that continue to happen here today.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony and for your work serving the people of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Harper Coale

Age 11

Maryland Resident

MD State Shark_Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Victor Perez

Position: FAV

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

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this letter in strong support of naming Megalodon as the Maryland State Shark. Megalodon is an iconic extinct apex predator that captures public and professional interest, as the largest shark to ever live. Megalodon had a relatively global distribution, making it known worldwide, with a substantial fossil record within Maryland. People from around the world visit Maryland in hopes of finding large, well-preserved Megalodon teeth. Designating Megalodon as the Maryland State Shark will likely be another draw to increase tourism in our local parks and museums. Undoubtedly, institutions such as the Calvert Marine Museum, the Maryland Science Center, the Natural History Society of Maryland, and the various parks with fossil resources will tap into this new state symbol as a promotional tool for public education.

Maryland already recognizes two different fossil state symbols: the Maryland State Fossil (*Eophora gardnerae gardnerae*) and the Maryland State Dinosaur (*Astrodon johnstoni*). Adding Megalodon as another state symbol would make Maryland the first state to have a State Shark as a symbol, and the only state to have three different state symbols represented by fossils. These state symbols help to promote paleontology as a field and inspire curiosity. Further, they remind us of the natural and cultural significance of fossils.

As you all surely know, Marylanders take a lot of pride in our state and our state symbols. Naming Megalodon as the Maryland State Shark will give us another accolade to show our appreciation for the amazing heritage we all share.

Sincerely,

 Feb. 10, 2026

Dr. Victor J. Perez
Paleontology Manager
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission