



## **TESTIMONY FOR SB0108/HB0250**

### **Environment – Water Resources and Wetlands – Enforcement**

### **Environment and Transportation Committee**

### **FAVORABLE**

TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair; Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee; and

FROM: Patrick Crump, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN)

DATE: March 31, 2026

Christians have a long history of working to preserve the natural beauty and sustainability of God's creation. This concern reflects God's mandate to care for the earth, other species placed under our care and influence, and to utilize natural and living resources in a sustainable and unselfish manner.

MEPPN provided favorable testimony to this Committee for the original bill for its February 4 hearing, based on the importance of wetlands in protecting coastal environments.

We understand that the revisions to the bill recognize MDE's limited enforcement resources, mandating good faith efforts to work constructively with violators, and supporting administrative actions and penalties as more pragmatic solutions to enforcement than civil or criminal penalties.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges the Environment and Transportation Committee to support the revised Water Resources and Wetlands Enforcement Act, to better enable the Department of the Environment to protect our state's valuable water resources and wetlands.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network requests a FAVORABLE report.