



**MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS**

**Maryland LCV
Board of Directors**

Patrick Miller
Chair

Honorable Nancy Kopp
Treasurer

Bonnie Norman
Secretary

Kimberly Armstrong
Caroline Baker
Joe Gill
Lynn Heller
Honorable Steve Lafferty
Kevin Loeb

Kim Coble
Executive Director

March 13, 2026

**SUPPORT: HB 1599 Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program -
Establishment**

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Supports HB 1599 - Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program -
Establishment and we thank Delegate Jacobs for his leadership on this issue.

HB 1599 establishes in law a funding agreement that has existed for 30 years, supporting the restoration of Maryland's oyster population and acknowledging the need for mitigation in response to maintenance dredging and transportation projects to maintain operations at the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore.

Beginning with a first agreement signed in 1996 between Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the exchange of \$2 million annually from the Transportation Trust Fund has provided a vital and consistent funding source to support Maryland's oyster population. And Maryland's oyster population has been responding to this effort. Maryland DNR has been documenting [increases in oyster biomass since 2011](#). However, pressure from maintenance and use of Maryland's shipping channels is a constant source of sedimentation that can harm oyster bed health. For that reason, Maryland LCV believes continuing the agreement to fund the Chesapeake Bay Enhancement Program at Maryland DNR through the Transportation Trust Fund is a good investment and offering appropriate mitigation efforts that support a healthy oyster population and the livelihood of Maryland watermen.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB 1599.

30 West Street, Suite C
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: 410-280-9855

www.mdlc.org