



TESTIMONY FOR HB 0258

Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Standards and Procedures

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

DATE: February 11, 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.

Wetlands are some of Maryland's most abundant and valuable natural features. Moreover, the Chesapeake Bay wetlands are some of the most significant wetland areas in the nation. Both tidal and non-tidal wetlands are among the most productive, diverse, and important ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. They improve water quality, reduce storm damage and flooding, control erosion, provide vital wildlife habitat, and help fight climate change. Unfortunately, the Chesapeake's wetlands are threatened by development, rollbacks of federal regulations, invasive species, and the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, flooding, drought, increased heat, and more frequent and severe storms.

We support this bill to better enable the Department of Natural Resources, the Critical Area Commission and local jurisdictions to enforce regulations and protect Maryland's valuable coastal areas and wetlands that are essential to the Chesapeake Bay's health.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network requests a FAVORABLE report.