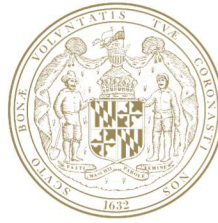


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST  
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER  
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON  
TERRY BAKER  
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER  
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STEVE JOHNSON  
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB578 Fish and Wildlife - Endangered and Threatened Species and Migratory Birds - Regulations, Lists, Petitions, Essential Habitats, and Takings.**

This bill would authorize the Secretary of Natural Resources to review the list of endangered species and allow them to add or remove species. The bill would also allow the Secretary to designate certain habitats as essential for endangered or threatened species and prohibit a person from harming protected migratory birds. The bill presents a reasonable balance between conservation goals and industries in rural areas such as forestry.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB578 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson L. Ghrist".

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist  
*Co-Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler  
*Co-Chair*