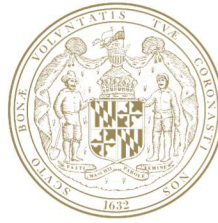


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST  
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER  
Co-CHAIR



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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 **HB 1388 Oysters - Rotational Harvest - Pilot Program**.

The bill establishes a pilot program run by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to test rotational oyster harvesting. The intent is to open specific oyster bars on a rotating schedule, allow harvest, require shell replacement, and collect ecological data before, during, and after harvest. This legislation will allow for certain oyster reef populations to be resilient against overfishing and habitat degradation, which will benefit fisheries in rural communities.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 1388 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*