



**Queen  
Anne's  
County**  
MARYLAND

**Position Statement SB558:  
Chesapeake Bay- Enhancement Program and Maryland Seafood  
Industry Financial Assistance Fund-Established**

**POSITION:** Letter of Information

**TO:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Heather Tinelli, Director Queen Anne's County Economic & Tourism Development

**DATE:** 3/30/26

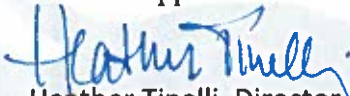
Queen Anne's County hosts one of the largest concentrations of commercial watermen in the state and is home to the last working waterfront. The maritime industry is an important legacy industry to the county and the state of Maryland.

The commercial watermen have been faced with burdensome regulations, market uncertainty and environmental factors beyond their control. These businesses are struggling with little outside state/federal assistance as compared to support provided to the Agricultural community; therefore, we support the establishment of the Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance fund to provide financial assistance to commercial watermen and small businesses.

We also ask that you allocate ongoing funding to the Maryland Seafood Industry Financial Assistance fund and that it includes both loan and grant opportunities.

Lastly, we support MARBIDCO to manage this program as the organization has a proven track record of supporting the resource-based economy, especially the Agriculture and Seafood industries.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this proposed legislation and the support of our local watermen and Maryland's seafood industry.

  
Heather Tinelli, Director

**County Commissioners:**

James J. Moran, At Large  
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1  
Patrick McLaughlin, District 2  
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3  
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**Economic & Tourism Development**

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