

HB0097

Cory Deltrove
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March 13, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair: Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
House of Delegates, Room 145
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wells, Vice-Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to advocate (FAV) for the passage of House Bill 97 to designate the megalodon as the State shark.

I am a passionate avocational paleontologist and I have first-hand experience searching for and finding fossilized megalodon teeth of all sizes. My hobby leads me to the beaches of Maryland once or twice a week. I also volunteer for the Calvert Marine Museum and its paleontology department.

I think the megalodon is ideal for Maryland's State shark because of the prevalence of its fossil record found in Maryland. It's an impressive, iconic shark and no other state has designated the megalodon as their state shark. Its fossilized teeth are the largest shark teeth that can be found and are highly desirable to many people.

I believe designating the megalodon as the State shark will increase awareness of Maryland's fossil history and it will spark conversations about protecting Maryland's precious Chesapeake Bay – the conservation of the extant marine life, including sharks, and the fossils. These are topics that Marylanders of all ages and backgrounds can find interesting and important.

Sincerely,



Cory Deltrove