

HB0097: FAV

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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:

My name is Emily Bzdyk and I'm an entomologist, naturalist and an avocational paleontologist who has been lucky enough to call Maryland home for almost 16 years. The Calvert cliffs along Chesapeake's western shore are a location known worldwide for their production of well-preserved Miocene-aged fossils. Among those fossils, arguably none is more popular or sought after than the teeth of the extinct megalodon. These sharks left behind their giant, serrated teeth for fossil hunters and scientists alike to discover.

Research continues to uncover exciting new details about the lives of these sharks. Recently, here in Maryland, a collaboration between researchers from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the Calvert Marine Museum found that the megalodon enhances the strength of its massive teeth with zinc deposits.

Finding "a meg" is a particular thrill for fossil hunters that sometimes drives a lifelong search, and a passion for the hobby. Calvert County's public shoreline parks such as Calvert Cliffs state park and Flag ponds are popular destinations to which hunters come from far and wide to seek this charismatic fossil. Therefore, it seems only fitting that the megalodon should serve as Maryland's state shark.

Sincerely,

Emily Bzdyk



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