



February 12, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chairman
House Environment & Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: House Bill 143 – State Boat Act – Abandoned or Sunken Vessels – Removal Support

Dear Chairman Barve:

On behalf of the Marine Trades Association of Maryland, I am writing in support of HB 143 which will improve procedures for marina operators to deal with boats abandoned on their property. At present, commercial marinas must wait longer to begin the abandoned boat procedures than other property owners. With the passage of HB 143, the current 90 days would be reduced to 30 days. The boat owner and the marina will benefit from this shorter time period as the boatyard bills will be contained and the marina will free up their valuable storage space sooner. In addition to the benefits to the marina operator, HB 143 also provides DNR the ability to respond in a more timely manner to boats that are abandoned on waterways. In the case of the boat abandoned off Tolley Point last summer, DNR had to wait until the boat was partially submerged before they could respond, even though the boat was listing to one side and clearly abandoned.

The Marine Trades Association of Maryland is a 501(c)(6) organization representing the boating trades and the recreational boater in Maryland. The industry is a \$3.5 billion industry in Maryland and supports nearly 18,000 jobs.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Zellers
Executive Director

cc: Members, House Environment & Transportation Committee