



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 160

Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program - Eligible Organizations-
Alteration of Geographic Boundaries

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

POSITION

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation recommends a favorable report on HB 160 from the Environment and Transportation Committee. This bill would expand the eligibility requirements for the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program to include certain community development organizations serving neighborhoods or sets of neighborhoods outside the I-695 beltway.

COMMENTS

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports the expansion of neighborhood organizations and community development organizations provided by HB 160. This legislation represents a meaningful opportunity for growth of the positive effects of the current Program – including sustainable community projects and neighborhood revitalization efforts – and the potential to increase the Program’s funding allocation to new areas. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports this strategy.

This legislation may increase equity in program processes and funding eligibility in a way that begins to remedy historic underrepresentation and underfunding of certain communities. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports that aim and the goal of encouraging access to sustainability and revitalization opportunities for all communities in Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay watershed.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation recommends a favorable report on HB 160 from the Environment and Transportation Committee. Please contact Carmera Thomas-Wilhite, Baltimore Program Manager, at carmerathomas@cbf.org with any questions.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.