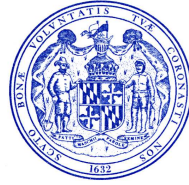


Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor



Charles C. Deegan
Chairman

Katherine Charbonneau
Executive Director

**STATE OF MARYLAND
CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION
CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS**

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Information Only – Senate Bill Bill 21 - Environment – Wetlands and Waterways –
Riparian Rights - Prohibition on Termination or Impairment

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

I am writing to provide information on Senate Bill 21 and how it may impact Critical Area law and local Critical Area programs. It is our understanding that this bill would prohibit the Department of the Environment (the Department) and the Board of Public Works (the Board) from terminating or impairing – i.e., denying or conditionally approving – a pier license.

This bill, as proposed, may have unintended consequences on local Critical Area programs. Under current Critical Area law (Natural Resources Article 8-1808.5), local jurisdictions are prohibited from approving an individual private pier for a residential development approved by the local jurisdiction with a community pier. In those cases, it would be appropriate for the Department and the Board to continue to be able to deny licenses for individual private piers and not be prohibited from the ability to deny a license.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles C. Deegan".

Charles C. Deegan
Chairman, Critical Area Commission
Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays