

SB 321 TESTIMONY

My name is Captain Christopher Yearwood I hold a USCG Unlimited Tonnage Any Ocean Masters License and First-Class State Pilotage upon the entire Chesapeake Bay and Prince William Sound Alaska. I am an avid water skier, boater, sailor, and fisherman and retired Naval Reserve Officer.

It would be appalling if SB321 should make it out of this committee in the middle of an economic and pandemic crisis where people have lost jobs, income, education and their lives. I have witnessed merchant seaman trapped aboard ships for over a year, yet SB321 is important? Why? Senator Reilly's bill SB93 provides for a DNR study due in 2022, why can't we wait to see the results of that study and keep the sunset review clause? Without the sunset clause the 41% decline in use of the ski course since SB93 was passed would be permanent.

This is not a local bill. The Mayandier water ski course is one of only three state sanctioned ski courses open to the public. However, the Maynadier course is unique in that it is protected from both boat wakes and wind-induced waves. Therefore, it is a SAFE body of water to ski all the time.

The Severn River Ski Club is open to all. We promote access to people of color, and we have taught persons from all backgrounds how to ski. We promote equal access for everyone. Skiers come from Montgomery County, Baltimore City, Prince Georges County, and the Eastern Shore to name a few.

SB321 solidifies and makes permanent a public waterway grab by a handful of homeowners. It circumvents the regulatory process the legislature placed into the hands of the experts at DNR and the BAAC. The legislature does not possess the expertise that DNR and BAAC has on this issue.

The course predates the waterfront homeowners. This is not the waterfront homeowner's backyard it is a PUBLIC WATERWAY. Science and data have repeatedly not supported any of the claims justifying such a bill. The Army Corp. of Engineers studied the Creek extensively from 2013 to 2016 before the course was realigned.

Skiers have never had a problem with other waterway users, nor has DNR ever had a complaint. If there were complaints, there is already a built-in process through DNR and the BAAC. Skiing has never prevented other waterway users from

enjoying Maynadier Creek. At times skiers, paddle boarders, kayakers, fisherman, crabbers and rafted up boats all enjoy Maynadier Creek in Harmony. Skiers are very respectful of other waterway users.

Please vote AGAINST SB 321.