

Chesapeake Watershed Restoration Professionals

January 27, 2021

Hon. Kumar Barve
Chairman, Environment and Transportation
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Watershed Restoration Professionals (CWRP), we strongly support Senate HB 295 – Water Pollution – Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans – Review and Update. CWRP was founded in November of 2020 and represents Maryland professionals whose daily work improves the health of Maryland’s waters and our prized Chesapeake Bay. We thank Delegate Love for leading the charge on this important issue.

This legislation will modernize the stormwater regulations that should be evolving as Maryland confronts the new reality imposed by global warming. To that end, CWRP supports the five-year review cycle to continually evaluate the latest trends and best management practices related to stormwater management. Further, the inclusion of climate change allocations in Watershed Implementation Plans to account for impacts of climate change on the hydrology of Maryland is a key provision. Requiring MDE to include water quality and water quantity control standards as the basis for reviewing and updating the regulations is an important baseline measurement and we support its use in this fashion.

CWRP would also ask for the Committee’s consideration of an amendment to require MDE to consult with stormwater restoration professionals as part of the stakeholder community outlined on page 5. Our professionals implement stormwater and water quality best management practices and would add tremendous value to the Department as it contemplates regulations. Additionally, the Committee may want to stipulate an implementation timeline to ensure review milestones are met.

We thank the committee for their consideration of this important legislation and the issues we have raised. We look forward to working with you in the coming years to strengthen Maryland’s stormwater and other critical environmental laws.

Sincerely,

Liam O’Meara
President
Chesapeake Watershed Restoration Professionals