

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0649 – Environment – Discharge Permits- Inspections
and Administrative Continuations

Dear Chairman Barve and members of the Environmental and Transportation Committee,

The Protectors of the St Martin River supports the Environment – Discharge Permits – Inspections and Administrative Continuations HB0649 / SB0492.

The coastal bays of the Eastern Shore of Maryland have degraded water quality caused by excess nutrients due in part to discharge from Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) exceeding their permitted discharge. This bill proposes actions which Maryland should be taking to enforce discharge permits and to properly manage the continuation of the permits which AFOs are operating under.

Our organization has undertaken numerous efforts to restore healthy waterways in the coastal bays of Maryland, through education of residents in critical areas as to environmentally sensitive land management and through an oyster gardening program to reduce excess nutrients in the coastal bays. This bill will provide a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the coastal bays of Maryland.

Respectfully,

Joseph Jankowski, Director
Protectors of the St Martin River