

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Batiuk
Coastwise Consultants

Thad Bench
Benchworks

Michael Brubaker
Principled Strategies, LLC

Marc Bunting | Secretary
Alpine Food Solutions

Leslie Delagran
World Wildlife Fund, Ret.

Joel E. Dunn | President & CEO
Chesapeake Conservancy

Matthew Earl
MHE Foundation

Colin Harrington
Zephyr Energy, plc

Ed Hatcher
The Hatcher Group, Ret

Randall W. Larrimore | Chair
Ret. CEO of 2 Fortune 500 Cos.

Pamela D. Marks
Beveridge & Diamond, PC

Stephanie Meeks
Student Conservation Association

Mamie A. Parker, PhD
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ret.

John Reynolds
American Society of
Landscape Architects

G. Anne Richardson, Chief
Rappahannock Tribe

Jeffrey Sabot, CPA | Treasurer
CBIZ

Tony J. Spencer, MPA Commissioner,
Maryland Commission on African
American History and Culture

Molly Ward
Former Virginia Secretary
of Natural Resources

Beatra Wilson
IDEATION308

HONORARY DIRECTOR

Gilbert M. Grosvenor
National Geographic Society

EMERITUS DIRECTORS

Patrick F. Noonan
The Conservation Fund

Charles A. Stek
Environmental Stewardship Strategies



Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places

716 Giddings Avenue, Suite 42 | Annapolis, MD 21401
www.chesapeakeconservancy.org | 443.321.3610

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation
Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation
Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 942 Wetlands and Waterways Program - Authorizations for Stream Restoration Projects - UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Chesapeake Conservancy, I would like to express our organization's opposition to HB 942. We believe this bill would undermine efforts to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay, safeguard our communities from the impacts of climate change, and advance environmental progress.

Stream restoration is an effective best management practice to keep nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment out of the waters of the Chesapeake. It achieves scale that upland practices on current properties cannot achieve.

This bill would increase the costs of meeting the pollution reduction targets agreed to by Chesapeake Bay states. As Maryland approaches the 2025 Bay deadline and seeks to efficiently use new federal funds, now more than ever the state should be prioritizing **cost-effectiveness**. This bill would do the opposite and would burden local governments that fund stream restorations to meet their permit and regulatory obligations with more costs and delays. The subsection of the bill that postpones regulatory credits from being claimed if at after 10 years of post- construction monitoring will make this practice totally unworkable.

Additionally, HB 942 puts legislators in the position of overruling science. The Chesapeake Bay Program and US Army Corps of Engineers have established panels of scientists and practitioners who regularly study the effectiveness of existing and emerging water quality restoration practices. It is through this work that the crediting for stream restoration has been approved. Importantly, the Assembly just required ([HB 869](#)) an evaluation of restoration permitting last year; that study is still underway. Why consider this bill until the results of HB 869 have been completed and reviewed by your committee, all stakeholders, and the Assembly.

This bill would not make stream restorations more robust, it would make them rarer. That would be an unfortunate outcome for our Bay, our communities, and our environment.

For these reasons and more, we urge you to oppose HB 942.

Joel Dunn

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Joel Dunn', with a large loop at the top and a smaller loop below it.

Sincerely,
President and CEO
Chesapeake Conservancy