



Free State Fly Fishers  
P.O. Box 331  
3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road  
Davidsonville, MD 21035

March 21, 2025

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Environment and Transportation Committee:

Free State Fly Fishers offers its full support for Maryland Senate Bill SB0258 and Maryland House Bill HB0040.

Since 1974, the Free State Fly Fishers has offered member-guided outings, instruction in all aspects of fly fishing, and most of all, fellowship among all who love to fly fish. Based in Davidsonville, Maryland, the club's hundreds of members are drawn from central Maryland as well as western and southern Maryland. Hosting over 30 outings every year, Free State Fly Fishers also sponsors a combination of club meetings, events and activities, from speaker-based meetings, fly tying sessions, Saturday hands-on sessions and fly casting clinics on a monthly basis free to all participants.

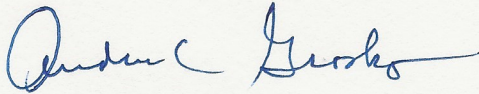
During its February 7, 2025 meeting, Free State Fly Fishers' Leadership Team reviewed and discussed the proposed license fee increases and voted unanimously to support the proposed fee increases. Free State Fly Fishers are fully supportive of the proposed increases in Maryland's fishing license fees as presented in HB0040 and SB0258.

The majority of our members purchase fishing licenses from not only Maryland, but states around the mid-Atlantic region, so we know the differences in fishing license fees between the states surrounding Maryland. Even factoring in the proposed increases in fishing license fees, Maryland's fees are still very competitive with these other states.

Our members also understand the importance of the work of the men and women at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources engaged in fisheries management. A number of our members are current or former members of the Department's fisheries advisory committees, helping ensure the voices of recreational anglers are fully considered. Our members understand the quality of Maryland's amazing freshwater, estuarine, coastal and ocean fisheries depend on solid funding for fisheries management as well as work directed towards habitat restoration and protection.

Our members recognize that the Department of Natural Resources' costs for monitoring, producing, and stocking freshwater fisheries have increased significantly due to inflation. However, the prices for freshwater fishing licenses and trout stamps which account for the majority of the funding for that work have not kept pace. Current Department of Natural Resources' expenditures on behalf of all of us who fish in Maryland's waters exceed the revenue from our purchased licenses. When each of us purchases our Maryland fishing licenses along with a trout stamp, we know we are investing in the quality of our fisheries. Therefore, we are fully supportive of ensuring that continued investment is sufficient into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Grosko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andy Grosko, President  
Free State Fly Fishers

cc. Free State Fly Fishers Leadership Team Members