

January 26, 2023

Dear Anne Arundel County Waterman:

As a full-time or part-time waterman in the County you must be aware of recent changes in Maryland's political scene that could have major implications on you and your business, as well as the fishing industry at large. Our new Democratic Governor, Wes Moore, is making appointments to the Department of Natural Resources that will not make it easy for you or our industry.

Moore recently appointed Chesapeake Bay Foundation executive Josh Kurtz as the new Secretary of DNR. CBF has *historically* supported strict crab regulations, a moratorium on oystering, and expansion of sanctuaries, and strict fishing regulations. The Foundation also has a strong lobbying presence in the State Legislature.

Please be aware that on March 13, 2022 the M/V Ever Forward ran aground inside the edge of Natural Oyster Bar 4-2 in Anne Arundel County. It was finally freed on April 22, 2022. On the week of January 25, 2023 the owners of Ever Forward agreed to pay Maryland over half a million dollars to enhance local oyster bars as a penalty for the accident damage to the bar. Now the Maryland Public Works tacked on a \$676,200 payment which will go towards enhancing and reseeding more than 41 acres of oyster bar. Because the grounding occurred in our county we all must watch closely how DNR prioritizes how the funds will be allocated.

Now, with this letter I am asking you to please join the Legislature's Watermen's Caucus hosted by Rock Hall Delegate Jay Jacobs on a Zoom call on Monday evenings at 6:00 during the legislative session. Simply call his office on 410-841-3449 and give them your name and e-mail to keep up with our issues in the House and Senate. I am also asking you to join the Anne Arundel Watermen's Association if you are not a member. The dues are only \$30 annually and you will get frequent notifications on what we are doing. Please send your check to AAWA, P.O. Box 574, Churchton, MD 20733. Telephone: 410-991-5331.

While we continue to work hard and work with the County and community to promote our industry and association it would be easier with your support! I would also be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely, Officers