



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

March 19, 2014

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairperson
Members of the House Environmental Matters Committee
House Environmental Matters Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support, Senate Bill 93 – *Natural Resources – Recreational Incentives Pilot Program*

Dear Chairperson McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment has reviewed Senate Bill 93, *Natural Resources - Recreational Incentives Pilot Program*, and would like to express our support for the bill and its objectives.

Senate Bill 93 would establish the Recreational Incentives Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources, in order to determine if incentive discounts increase the purchase of recreational hunting or fishing licenses by individuals who have not recently held licenses. Recreational fishing licenses provide an opportunity for the State to educate both prospective and current license holders with important public health information and messages, such as Maryland's fish consumption advisories, general fish consumption information, and reducing risk from waterborne hazards like *Vibrio* bacteria. Success of the Recreational Incentives Pilot Program could expand the audience who may benefit from these public health messages.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 93 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

cc: Lee Currey, Director, Science Services Administration

