



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • www.mde.maryland.gov

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

January 29, 2014

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

Re: Letter of Concern, House Bill 118: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions – Progress Report – Ocean Acidification

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment has reviewed House Bill 118, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions – Progress Report – Ocean Acidification*, and would like to share some information on this legislation with the Committee.

The Department agrees with the intent of the bill, which is to analyze the science on ocean acidification, determine its effects on the ecology of State waters and fisheries, and develop potential strategies to mitigate those effects. However, the Department is concerned with the potential fiscal impact the bill would have on the Department. The Department does not have the staff level expertise to complete the required study and would need to contract with a third party to complete the study. The Department estimates the cost for the study to meet the bill's requirements to be \$375,000. Funding for the study is not included in the Department's proposed FY 2015 budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this information as you review HB 118. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or by email at jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

