



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

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Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

January 14, 2014

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Building, 2 West  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

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

Dear Senator Conway and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment has reviewed Senate Bill 93 – Natural Resources - Recreational Incentives Pilot Program – and we 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.

Furthermore, an increase in the sale of licenses would result in more people out on the water in close contact with the resource, which tends to promote stewardship as well as support for the Department's broader pollution control efforts. Recreational fishers are often among the biggest proponents of resource protection and sustainability.

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](mailto:jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

cc: Lee Currey, Director, Science Services Administration

