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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE
BASED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
1410 Forest Drive, Suite 28 ~ Annapolis, MD 21403
Office: 410-267-6807 ~ Fax: 410-267-6809

J. Robert Frazee, *Chairman*

Stephen R. McHenry, *Executive Director*

January 28, 2008

The Honorable Martin J. O'Malley
State House
100 state Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President, Maryland Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley, President Miller, and Speaker Busch:

I am writing to you in regards to the Working Waterfront Commission established during the 2007 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. The purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations regarding protecting Maryland's commercial fishing industry's access to public trust waters. As Chairman of this Commission, I wanted to provide you with the current status of the Commission.

Members were notified of their appointments by letter from the Governor this fall; the last of these notifications is dated December 6, 2007. The first meeting was held on December 11, 2007. At this first meeting the agenda included introductions of members, an overview of the responsibilities of the Commission, an overview of other states' working waterfront plans, and background information on Maryland's commercial fisheries. Members discussed possible ideas and requested information from Commission staff for the next meeting. A second meeting was held on January 16, 2008. At this meeting the Commission went over the information they had requested, brainstormed possible legislative ideas for the 2008 session, and heard two presentations, one from Bob Gaudette with Department of Natural Resources Boating Services regarding the Waterway Improvement Fund and one from LeeAnne Chandler

with Department of Natural Resources Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays regarding access issues in wetlands.

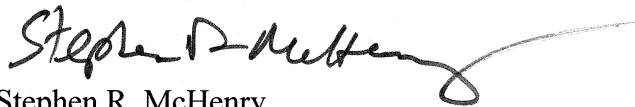
The Commission requested that Senator Stoltzfus, the sponsor of the 2007 legislation that created the Commission, introduce legislation during the 2008 session to extend the statutory authority of the Commission until December 31, 2008, and to modify the reporting deadline to December 1, 2008. This legislation has been introduced as SB 104. Additionally, Senator Stoltzfus and Delegate Kullen, both members of the Commission, are working on legislation based on discussions with Commission members.

The Commission submitted a letter on December 14, 2007, requesting that an extension be granted for submission of the report and stating that an interim report would be submitted to you on or before January 31, 2008. The Commission respectfully requests that the letter herein be considered the interim report.

The Commission members have chosen to hold their next meeting on February 20, 2008, at which time the members will continue their discussion on possible solutions to working waterfront access issues in our state. Members will continue meeting and working toward a final report with an expected completion date of December 1, 2008.

Again, I appreciate your support of this Commission. If you have any questions, please contact the Commission staff, Sarah Widman of the Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8266 or Andrew Gray of the Department of Legislative Services at 410-946-5530.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. McHenry
Commission Chair

cc: Secretary John R. Griffin
Commission Members
Mr. Andrew Gray

Mr. Karl S. Aro
Mr. Warren G. Deschenaux
Ms. Sarah Widman