



Solomons Island Yacht Club
P.O. Box 206, Solomons, MD 20688 • 410-326-3718

March 13, 2010

Honorable Anthony O'Donnell
P.O. Box 865
Solomons, MD 20688

Reference: House Bill 1257

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

We are writing to voice our strong opposition to the current drafts of proposed Senate Bill 513 and its companion House bill, 1257.

Cleaning up the Bay and water ways is commendable; this legislation is specific to boat treatment system and no discharge and, therefore, NOT commendable.

There are major oversights in the current drafts of SB 513 and HB 1257.

For all who are truly concerned about improving the water quality of our Bay — and all of its tributaries — we must consider the following:

1. Your legislation is not addressing the major factors in poor water quality throughout our Bay and its tributaries. Have your aides do a Google search for “chesapeake bay pollution.” Look at the 849,000 organic free listings on multiple pages. Look at page 1 {see below SnagIT screen shot} and Google's Top 10 organic choices. There is **no indication that recreational boaters** are anywhere on the radar on actions needed to improve our water quality.
 - a. Let's have the courage to address the major polluters of the Chesapeake Bay: agricultural and residential runoff, street and highway runoff, faulty municipal sewage treatment plants, industrial runoff and air pollution, over harvesting of water filtering oysters (see below) and faulty residential septic systems.
2. There is **no study in existence** affirming or validating that Type 1 and Type 11 Marine Sanitation Devices are contributing to the pollution problem in the Chesapeake Bay. These MSDs have proven to be effective, and regulatory attention should be directed elsewhere — to much more significant pollution sources.
3. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, in a 2009 document, the overwhelming major polluters of our waterways are the public and private sector large-scale industrial entities that are pumping thousands of pounds of raw sewage into our waterways. This is occurring from the western to the eastern shorelines.
 - a. The Maryland legislature, in rejecting SB 513 and HB 1257, should convene a forum to review all the factors involved in #3 and to see what hard-line actions need to be imposed on violating parties.
4. Launch a review of all known Maryland pumpout stations to determine how many are truly accessible by all recreational boaters — power and sail — on a 24/7 basis.
 - a. Conduct independent review and analysis of the “waste rating” being emitted by Rareton Lectra San mechanisms — and other excellent treatment systems — in comparison to the “waste rating” of all waste being extracted by Pumpout Stations and then processed and eventually returned to the public waterways.

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5. This proposed SB 513 and HB 1257 would have serious negative implications on the recreational boating business community in Maryland. Look at the Final Report, "Task Force to Study the Boating Industry in Maryland," December 31, 2008, signed by Senator John C. Astle, Chairperson.
 - a. "Maryland's boating industry is a major economic activity in our State creating \$2.5 billion in total nominal spending and generating over 32,000 jobs. This industry provides a vast array of services to both resident and visiting recreational boaters."
 - b. The Maryland Sea Grant Program (SGP) states on its website, "A study undertaken by marine economist and Sea Grant Extension Program leader Doug Lipton and his colleagues documented the value of recreational boating activity in Maryland at well over a billion dollars a year — and that's not counting the sale price of boats."
 - c. This proposed legislation could cause a loss of revenue to the state and local areas because boaters will not use their boats, or simply give up boating altogether, especially with an unfair fine of \$10,000 hanging over their head.
 - d. The negative economic impact would go beyond our Maryland boaters. The same SGP website states, "It is estimated that transient boaters spent \$154 million in 2004 while in Maryland on items related to their boat or on trip-related activities. Transient boater spending had a \$186 million impact on the Maryland economy in 2004 and can be linked to 2,627 full-time equivalent jobs."
 - e. This proposed legislation could cause a loss of revenue to the state from transient boaters — headed north or south — who will avoid the Chesapeake Bay, head offshore and possibly place their vessel and crew in harm's way.
6. Consider the burden you are adding to the recreational boater.
 - a. This misguided legislation would place an economic hardship on boat owners who would need to modify their vessels; further depress an already depressed business sector; add to state expenses for enforcement and administration; establish unreasonably high fines for non-compliance; and establish an intrusive and heavy handed inspection regime.
 - b. There are thousands of boats in existence that have no holding tank that were manufactured with treatment systems only, and have NO space to install a holding tank.
 - c. There would be months of backlog at area marinas trying to retrofit boats — IF the boats could be retrofitted.
7. Additionally, this proposed legislation would place an enormous burden on the Maryland's Department of Natural Resources Policy agency. Colonel Johnson in February 2010 indicated before the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Clubs Association (CBYCA) that his agency is already stretched very thin — both the reduction of personnel and the expansion of duties to handle State Parks now.
8. Look at what you're doing to maybe 1% of the pollution issue (recreational boating) compared to the issue of oyster poaching. Would it be more constructive to have MD's DNR police having the time and resources to catch and punish the many current oyster poachers? Look at how many of these poachers are raiding newly installed oyster reefs.
 - a. Don't misread #8 — we're very supportive of our Maryland watermen who are legally bringing the stated amount of oyster bushels to the marketplace. But what about the poachers who at 2:00 am in the morning raid a reef for 31 bushels instead of harvesting the legal 13 bushels in legally sanctioned oyster beds.

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We applaud your intent; we too, are committed to improving the water quality in our waterways. However, this legislation does not take us forward in that quest. It misses the boat — on many fronts.

Let us help you reach that quest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin J. Nash
Commodore
Solomons Island Yacht Club
Solomons, Maryland 20688

NOTE: This position statement was drafted by Don Thieme, Solomons Island Yacht Club Delegate to CBYCA, and adopted by SIYC Board of Governors on 3/06/10.

xc: Honorable Anthony O'Donnell
House Office Bldg., Rm 212
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

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www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/.../AR2010030202408.html

[Air Pollution - Bay Pressures - Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

Aug 20, 2009 ... Air **pollution** affects not only the quality of the air we breathe, but also the land and the water. In particular, airborne nitrogen is a ...
www.chesapeakebay.net/air_pollution.htm - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Chesapeake Bay: Measuring Pollution Reduction](#)

The **pollution**-reduction target was developed to improve and maintain the water quality of **Chesapeake Bay** and to ensure the productivity of the Bay's ...
water.usgs.gov/wid/html/chesbay.html - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Blue Crabs and Chesapeake Bay Pollution: Dirty Waters Cause of ...](#)

A report from the **Chesapeake Bay** Foundation (CBF) describes how **pollution** is killing crabs.
pollution-control.suite101.com/.../chesapeake_bay_pollution - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Scientists, Amish to fight Chesapeake Bay pollution - USATODAY.com](#)

Feb 18, 2010 ... The latest effort to clean up one of America's most polluted waterways is focusing on an unusual target two dozen mostly Amish farmers.
www.usatoday.com/.../2010-02-18-chesapeake-bay-pollution-Amish_N.htm - [Cached](#)

[Bay pollution now poses health problems](#)

Jul 10, 2009 ... The deteriorating health of the **Chesapeake Bay** and its tributaries ... Warmer temperatures coupled with increasing nutrient **pollution** have ...
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WATER POLLUTION IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY. Too Much Nitrogen Is Bad for the Bay. Nutrients—primarily nitrogen and phosphorus—are essential for the growth of all ...
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An essay or paper on **Chesapeake Bay Pollution**. In examining the reasons for, and the contribution of industries to, the **pollution** of the **Chesapeake Bay**, ...
www.lotsofessays.com/viewpaper/18821.html - [Similar](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Journal - The Chesapeake Bay Newspaper - March 2010 ...](#)

Forum: Animal waste causes too great a share of Bay's **pollution** to ignore ... Bay states poised to take lead in bioenergy field: The **Chesapeake Bay** region ...
www.bayjournal.com/ - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

[Businesses Prevent Toxic Emissions to Reduce Bay Pollution - The ...](#)

B4B educates members about a variety of environmental issues and **pollution** prevention techniques. For example, in 2005, the **Chesapeake Bay** Voluntary ...
archive.chesapeakebay.net/newsb4bay021006.htm - [Cached](#)

[News results for chesapeake bay pollution](#)

[Baltimore Sun](#)
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