

Submitter: Agness Deplois

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

Dear Co-chair Helm, Co-chair Owens and members of the committee,

I am writing to support HB 3580. I live in a coastal community, and the health of our marine ecosystems is a point of anxiety for me. Our economy relies in large part on seafood, both selling it commercially and using it to draw in visitors who want to catch some themselves. Many residents rely on clamming, crabbing, and fishing to feed themselves. Eel grass is a crucial part of the ecosystem that gives us these natural resources, acting as a habitat for many species. It also helps stabilize the surrounding environment, reducing storm swells, preventing eroding, as well as mitigating changes in acidity. Overtime we've seen the eelgrass pastures shrink, and if we continue to lose these habitats our coastal communities and state as a whole will suffer. We have a chance to now study and support this important plant, I urge a 'yes' vote on this bill.