



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB716 “Patuxent River Commission - Membership”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports the passage of HB716, which would add the Patuxent Riverkeeper as a voting member of the Patuxent River Commission.

Founded in 2004, the Patuxent Riverkeeper has a mission to conserve, protect and replenish Maryland’s longest and deepest intrastate waterway through strategic advocacy, restoration and education with a goal of long term sustainability for the ecosystem of the entire Patuxent River basin and the people who rely on its future.¹ The role of the Patuxent Riverkeeper is hands on and active through engaging the community in tree plantings, cleanups and running a water trail website. This dedication to the river gives the Patuxent Riverkeeper an invaluable perspective on the overall condition of the river.

The Patuxent River Commission was founded in 1980 and has a long history of working with the Patuxent Riverkeeper on important projects like the Patuxent Environmental Summit. The Commission serves as a steward for the Patuxent River and commits to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance and restore river species as well as the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values in the watershed.”² Considering the alignment of the mission of the Patuxent River Keeper with the Patuxent River Commission, it makes sense to have the Patuxent Riverkeeper be a permanent member of the Commission.

We urge a favorable report.

Lily Fountain
Natural Places Committee
Lily.Fountain@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

¹ <http://paxriverkeeper.org/>

² <https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/PaxRiverComm/PatuxentRiverCommInfo.aspx>