



**Maryland Chamber of Commerce**

## **Legislative Position**

**HB 1569  
FAVOR  
W/Amendments  
Environmental  
Matters  
Committee  
03/24/09**

### **HB 1569**

### **Standing - Miscellaneous Environmental Protection Proceedings and Judicial Review**

#### **Brief Summary of Bill:**

HB 1569 would repeal specified contested case hearing provisions related to permitting decisions by the Department of the Environment. It would authorize judicial review of specified permitting and license decisions by the Department at the request of specified persons that meet specified federal standing requirements and participate in a specified public participation process.

#### **Maryland Chamber's Position:**

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports this bill with amendments. This bill provides for increased participation regarding permitting decisions, while ensuring certain protections to the business community. There are a series of amendments that the business community desires that change the stay provisions, and strengthen the provisions about judicial review and compiling the record. These amendments have been discussed with the environmental community and the bill sponsor, and we are optimistic that they will be adopted. Chair McIntosh has done a monumental job of providing an open forum to bring opposing views together to discover opportunity for consensus and common ground. Provided the compromised bill adopts amendments agreed to by the business community, and no additional changes are made to the compromised bill, the Maryland Chamber offers its support to this bill.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests that the Committee give House Bill 1569 a favorable report with amendments.**

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