Transcript of

Boat Act Advisory Committee Meeting for Slaughter Creek, Elk River, Chester River, Miles River

Date: **October 20, 2011**

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                        MEETING OF THE
             MARYLAND BOAT ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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     IN RE:
            SLAUGHTER CREEK, ELK RIVER (LOCUST POINT)
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             CHESTER RIVER, MILES RIVER
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                The above-entitled matter came on for
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     hearing on Thursday, October 20th, 2011, commencing
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     at 10:00 a.m., at the Talbot Community Center,,
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     10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, Maryland 21601, John
10
     Bush, Committee Chairman, presiding.
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    COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
13
         Robin Allison
                                  Coles Marsh, Vice Chair
         Mick Blackistone
                                  Jon Sheller
14
         Robert Nickel
                                  Alvin L. Simon
         Amy Craig
                                  Bob Slaff
15
         Russ Dwyer
                                  John Ferman
         Thornell T. Jones
                                  Stephen Kling
16
                                  Frederick Levitan
         Kenneth Kloostra
17
         Mike Grant, Regulations Coordinator
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     Reported by: Kelly A. Taylor
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone,
3	welcome to the Boat Act Committee hearing. We are
4	appointed by the state; this is a group made up of
5	20 boaters and people that live on the water or
6	have an interest in boating. I will be introducing
7	our panel here shortly. A couple of things to keep
8	in mind is that initially we're going to call up
9	the primary speaker for each area that we're going
10	to be covering. We would like you to keep it
11	brief; we have a lot of people here, we want
12	everyone to have an opportunity to speak. We
13	prefer that you do not necessarily repeat exactly
14	what the other person has said. If you are for or
15	against, you may wish to just say that so that we
16	can move along because we have a lot of people
17	here, we want everyone to have an opportunity to
18	express their opinion.
19	One thing to keep in mind is that we
20	represent all the waterways in the state of
21	Maryland, we represent everyone. Sometimes we

1 satisfy one group and it does not work well with 2 the other group, but that means we're doing a good 3 So sometime everyone here will probably not be satisfied but we certainly appreciate and we 5 want to hear your opinion and we do absolutely 6 weigh everything that you have had to say. 7 After we have had our meeting this 8 morning we will break for lunch. After lunch we 9 will have an executive session by the whole board 10 in which we will discuss just between the board the 11 issues which have been stated before lunch. 12 are welcome to come back and listen to our 13 deliberation; however, you will not have an 14 opportunity to speak, all the speaking will be done before lunch. 15 16 So we're going to start off by 17 introducing the vice chair to my right. 18 (Committee members introduce themselves.) 19 THE CHAIRMAN: We're going to start off 20 now with the group from Slaughter Creek. 21 understand that there is no one here to represent

1 them; however -- I'm sorry, we do have someone. 2 You may come up to the podium, sir. 3 MR. MARSH: Sir, if you'll sign and 4 print your name on that sheet there, you can state 5 your name there too for the record if you would, 6 sir. (Pause in the proceedings.) 8 THE CHAIRMAN: We have two members who 9 just came in. We want to give them an opportunity 10 to -- I'm sorry, three, and we're going to give 11 them an opportunity to introduce themselves. 12 (Members introduce themselves.) 13 MR. BROMWELL: Robert Bromwell, 14 Slaughter Creek. 15 MR. MARSH: You want to say something 16 before Mr. Bromwell says something about Slaughter? 17 The request as you can see MR. GRANT: 18 on the screen is for six knots at all time in an 19 area about 900 yards north of the northernmost pier 20 and then the rest of the way down. Is that right? 21 MR. BROMWELL: Yes, sir, I'm looking at

1 your chart up there. Is that -- okay, I can see 2 the houses, I was just looking. Yeah, the original 3 buoy that you put there was downriver quite a bit 4 further, but that looks about like --5 MR. GRANT: There's a pointer right there if you want to use it. 6 7 MR. BROMWELL: I think the original 8 marker was about here. 9 (Discussion held off the record.) 10 MR. BROMWELL: Coming off of that first 11 pier I think, right about there. Is that correct? 12 MR. GRANT: Your first pier is right 13 here. 14 MR. BROMWELL: Yeah, with the house 15 down --16 MR. GRANT: Right about here. 17 MR. BROMWELL: Yes, sir, that would be, 18 so anywhere from right about there down is, would 19 be fine. 20 And your reasoning? MR. GRANT: 21 MR. BROMWELL: Well, there's a number of

1 homeowners in the area that have, you know, signed 2 our petition. Mainly for washing of their property 3 and so forth and moving to put stones down and 4 The marina itself, the speed in and out, 5 probably a third of the boaters are courteous and 6 two-thirds of them aren't, and so as we all get 7 older, I've been a boater all my life, race boats, 8 powerboats, into speed, but I see people, there are 9 some right in this room who are getting on and off 10 boats when they come in pulling a two- or three-11 foot wake, on high tides they have washed wake 12 right over the piers, and with more of our elderly 13 people now boating it's getting dangerous and 14 especially a lot of the fishermen even with smaller 15 boats, you know, cutting over close to it. 16 just, whether it's a no wake zone or a six mile 17 zone, you know, I don't know, it's just to cut down 18 on the wakes for the safety of ourselves as well as 19 preservation of the shoreline. 20 Is that all you have, sir? MR. MARSH: 21 MR. BROMWELL: Yes, sir.

1 How about the officer that MR. MARSH: 2 patrols that area, is the officer here? Would you 3 care to come up and give us your input? 4 THE REPORTER: Officer, sign your name 5 before you speak, please. Thank you. 6 OFFICER CADOW: I'm Officer Cadow and I 7 work Dorchester County. I've worked Dorchester for 8 about 20 years and I'm here on Sergeant Bowman's 9 behalf, he had court today, and he denied this I 10 think on the basis of most of the boat traffic was 11 small boats. To my knowledge we haven't had a boat 12 accident or any property damage related to wake. 13 think if -- what he put here was that if there was 14 any need it would be in front of Mr. Tyler's 15 That's all that I have. marina. 16 MR. MARSH: Okay. That's fine. Anybody 17 else wish to speak for or against? Okay. For 18 those standing there's one chair up here. We can 19 pull another chair from up here for you. 20 MR. GRANT: There's two more chairs in

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the back.

1 MR. MARSH: Some in the back. No more? 2 No one else wishes to speak to that? 3 MR. GRANT: We've heard from 4 approximately, oh, 32 people concerning this and 5 the petition was 27 for and we have a total of five 6 people against, and that came through e-mails 7 online at DNR or phone calls. A couple of the 8 comments we have were I do not -- I do a lot of 9 crabbing in the area, never had or seen a problem, 10 we don't need it. I know for a fact there's an 11 alternative motive for the speed change and I don't 12 feel that anybody should be inconvenienced for one 13 And for, to protect vessels and people in 14 the marina and the shoreline. And against, it 15 would extend travel time and it's not necessary, 16 there's no evidence of any issue. 17 Thank you, Mike. MR. MARSH: 18 anybody on the committee have any questions at all 19 to ask? No one. Move along. Mike, we're going to 20 do Elk River and Locust Point. Could you bring 21 that up for us?

1 MR. GRANT: The request, it's pretty 2 much identical for both marinas, Locust Point came 3 in first and then the folks from Triton Point at 4 Plum Point had the same request, that is to protect 5 their piers and vessels in both locations and more 6 specifically at Triton there's a fuel pier, they 7 get a lot of rocking. As you can see, the red line 8 pretty much denotes the channel area. It's an old 9 river, it's about two to three feet around the area 10 where it says channel, but there's a lot of 11 recreating in that area, a lot of the folks on that 12 side of the river are tubing and skiing, et cetera. 13 Up around the point above Locust there's a ski 14 That course will not be affected or doesn't affect this issue. And as you come down on 15 16 the canal, I'm sorry, the channel, at the bottom 17 left-hand corner, that little area right there is 18 up to 18, 19 feet of water. It's very deep there, 19 but the rest of the area right there is very 20 So again the folks at Locust and Plum shallow. 21 would like some protection for their docks and for

1 the residents and people using the fuel pier. 2 MR. MARSH: Is the officer that patrols 3 that area -- come up and speak. Make sure you 4 state your name and sign, or point. 5 CPL. BAKEOVEN: Morning, everyone, 6 Corporal Bob Bakeoven with the Maryland Natural 7 Resources Police assigned to Cecil County for the 8 past seven years. I'm quite familiar with the 9 request and the speed zones. However, we have not 10 as a team received any complaints at all pertaining 11 to the speed zone up there. Like you said, it's a 12 very shallow area and the channel is very narrow, 13 but as far as complaints from boat owners or 14 landowners, we have received nothing. We do patrol 15 quite frequently and I don't believe I have written 16 a ticket up there for speed other than personal 17 watercraft. That's about it. 18 MR. MARSH: Question for the officer, 19 anyone on the board?

the location of the channel changed so it's closer

MS. CRAIG: Has the channel changed, has

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1 to a marina or further away from the marina? 2 CPL. BAKEOVEN: No, that channel is 3 pretty much staying the same. As we're talking 4 right now they're in the process of dredging toward 5 Locust Point all the way up to Brandon Shores. 6 What about the two other MR. FERMAN: 7 large piers that are down on the channel on the 8 right-hand side, are they private piers or --9 CPL. BAKEOVEN: Yeah, they're private 10 piers, but we've never received a complaint. 11 the most part when people come through there, the 12 large boats, they're usually below six knots. 13 That's not an issue. What you have the problems 14 from is Jet Skis, which is a normal pain anyway. 15 MR. GRANT: These two long piers here 16 are both marinas. This one I believe is owned by 17 the same people that own Locust and this is another 18 marina here. 19 The one question I had is THE CHAIRMAN: 20 you've had no complaints from either one of the 21 marinas which are now requesting that we change the

1 rules in that area? 2 CPL. BAKEOVEN: That's correct, sir, no 3 complaints at all. THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 5 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Is there a spokesman for Locust Point, Triton Point? Get up 6 7 and do that, and there's several signed up for 8 After the spokesman speaks, if you, if 9 you've got something else to say about that, you're 10 welcome to get up and speak, we got your name 11 signed in and so please get up and speak. 12 have supporters of the request first and--13 MR. KRAPF: My name is Fred Krapf, I'm 14 the owner of Locust Point Marina, we're the ones 15 that petitioned for this change. Our primary 16 concern really is safety at this point. I know the 17 officer just said that there hadn't really been any 18 formal complaints made, and that's really our 19 fault, but going -- the boats that do pass the two 20 piers of Locust Point, as boats go through there 21 they do tend to throw a wake through the piers, and

- 1 the primary concern that we have is the actual
- 2 staging dock, which is a floating dock that's
- 3 between the two right up on land where our ramp
- 4 customers launch their boats and haul their boats.
- 5 We have witnessed, and probably, once again I'll
- 6 reiterate that we should have been making more
- 7 calls to the DNR, but the wake rolls through there
- 8 and we've seen people have very hazardous
- 9 conditions trying to board and deboard boats,
- 10 especially on that staging, that floating staging
- 11 dock right there, and, you know, we've as early as
- this summer actually witnessed one of our
- 13 customers, you know, using the ramp fell off the
- boat due to a wake that was going by. Fortunately
- 15 she wasn't hurt and we didn't report the incident,
- 16 but it's really safety is our concern here and it
- just seems like even though there's no reported
- incidents it's only a matter of time before
- 19 something does happen. Boats pass by the pier at
- 20 all sorts of speeds throwing all sizes of wakes.
- 21 Really -- and within less than a hundred feet from

1 the pier. 2 So the other thing that we are somewhat 3 concerned about, I know this is looking to the 4 future, the officer just mentioned that they are, 5 there's a dredging project reactivated upstream 6 from Locust Point where there is a public ramp 7 that's going to be probably more heavily utilized 8 as soon as they get that channel open, and 9 certainly that's going to add to our concerns, but, 10 you know, once again, you know, safety is a primary 11 concern. Certainly damage to boats is something 12 else we're worried about, but that's, that's about 13 You can see how close that channel runs to 14 those two piers of ours, and like I said, it's 15 primarily a weekend problem. Obviously that's why 16 we're not asking for an at all times speed zone. 17 That's pretty much it. 18 MR. MARSH: Any questions from the 19 committee? Mick first. 20 MR. BLACKISTONE: How long are your 21 piers there?

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                MR. KRAPF:
                            Between three to four
2
    hundred feet.
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                MR. BLACKISTONE: What size boats do you
 4
    have?
5
                MR. KRAPF: The largest boat that we
    have moored is 35 to 36 feet and the smaller ones
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7
    20.
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                MR. MARSH: Amy.
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                MS. CRAIG: That was my question.
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                MR. MARSH:
                            Steve.
11
                MR. KLING:
                             Two questions I quess.
12
    You're at the head of the river, who's going past
13
    you, how much traffic is going by you?
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                MR. KRAPF: It's not a lot of traffic,
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    but certainly summer between the holidays and
16
    weekends it's mostly not people traveling any
17
    destination, it's recreational boating, it's
18
    wakeboarding and waterskiing and it's stuff that's
19
    going -- there's certainly plenty of other places
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    where we can avoid going right past the piers while
21
     doing their recreational activities, but they're
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1 like basically coming right past the docks doing 2 it. 3 MR. GRANT: The new ramp is up here; is 4 that correct? 5 MR. KRAPF: Yes. 6 MR. GRANT: The redredging and a brand 7 new boat ramp up in this neck of the woods. 8 My other question is what MR. KLING: 9 change has there been in the last five years? 10 I wouldn't say a dramatic MR. KRAPF: 11 change, it's something that's existed since we've 12 been there. It's really the old rule of you're 13 responsible for your wake, and like I said, that's 14 primarily the issue that we're seeing, is just the 15 wakes rolling through the docks and causing a 16 hazardous situation for people that are boarding 17 the boats. 18 MR. MARSH: Mick. 19 MR. BLACKISTONE: How many slips do you 20 have? 21 MR. KRAPF: At Locust Point there's 85.

1 MR. BLACKISTONE: And how far are you 2 from the new ramp? 3 MR. KRAPF: I think approximately about 4 a mile. 5 MR. MARSH: Russ. 6 MR. DWYER: The other two long piers, 7 are they your piers? 8 MR. KRAPF: The next closest one, 9 Taylor's Marina, is ours as well. MR. DWYER: You don't have a problem 10 11 there? 12 MR. KRAPF: Not quite as much because 13 the channel doesn't run as close to the pier. 14 kind of doglegs out from it so we don't see as much 15 of an impact from the wake there. 16 When was your marina built? MR. FERMAN: 17 MR. KRAPF: I believe it was in the 18 1950s. 19 MR. MARSH: Any other questions from any 20 of the committee? Thank you, sir. Anybody else that wishes to speak for, you're welcome to speak. 21

1 MR. KRAPF: I just want to make one last 2 comment, I just feel like if people were 3 responsible for the wake they were throwing, this 4 wouldn't be necessary. 5 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir, appreciate 6 that. 7 Next person that wishes to speak? 8 are several that wish to speak, this is for, speak 9 for, this is the one for the request. Nobody else 10 wishes to speak for. How about against? 11 MS. REICHLE: I would like to speak. 12 MR. MARSH: Absolutely, please do. 13 MS. REICHLE: Good morning, board. 14 name is Dr. Jennifer Reichle, J.D. and I'm speaking 15 against the proposed speed limit changes at Triton 16 Marina and Locust Point. The proposed speed limit 17 change should not be put into effect for the 18 following reasons: First, there's already a law in 19 place to address this problem and it's an 20 enforcement issue, if there is one at all. 21 it is the legislative intent for the DNR to

1 implement the laws that help for enjoyment for each 2 of the citizens of the state of Maryland and this 3 does not do so. And lastly, there are ways to 4 remedy the situation by constructing a breakwater 5 system without negatively impacting the citizens. 6 For my first issue, this is the wrong 7 forum for this problem. There's already laws in 8 place to take away the wake from a surrounding 9 pier. If there has been a problem there, they 10 could have reported it to the local police officer, 11 the officer who had spoken earlier, or the Maryland 12 DNR and they could have added an extra patrol to 13 that area. The officer has already stated there 14 has been no speeding tickets up there in that area 15 and no incidents that he's experienced in his time 16 there. 17 Second, this is against the legislative intent for the creation of the DNR. The DNR was 18 19 created to develop the wise use and enjoyment of 20 all natural resources to the greatest benefit of 21 the state and its citizens. Secondarily, under

1 that Subtitle 7 of the State Boat Act says it is 2 the intent of this subtitle to foster the 3 development, use and enjoyment of all waters of 4 This would go directly against that. 5 The current landowners there use that river for 6 recreational sports and as you can see the area 7 surrounding the channel is very shallow at two to 8 three feet all the way out to the channel in those 9 The only area up there to ski is within points. 10 that channel. Most of the local owners who own 11 boats, their boats are small, around 20 feet, and 12 that's what they use to ski from. They're not the ones throwing any large wakes. The people who have 13 14 the large boats, the ones that are 36 feet and above, are the slip owners at each of the marinas. 15 16 If the marinas are having problems with their own 17 boaters, they should be able to handle that. 18 Lastly, there are ways to remedy the 19 situation. If the marina really feels that they 20 are getting too much wake from a Jet Ski, then they

I know a few of the different

install breakwaters.

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- piers at that area like Taylor's Marina used to
 have a breakwater in place where they had vertical
- 3 planes at the end of the piers to address this
- 4 issue. They have since been removed to add extra
- 5 slips onto the end of the pier. If they removed
- 6 those breakwaters and now are having problems with
- 7 different waves from the boaters, then they should
- 8 simply take away those slips and reinstate already
- 9 preexisting vertical pylons.
- 10 It is not the purpose of the law to take
- 11 the obligations of a commercial marina and place
- 12 the burden on the state and its citizens. The
- marina is in the business of docking and protecting
- 14 boats. There are already laws in place to aid in
- 15 this and if the marinas feel that this is not
- 16 enough, then they should be the ones to remedy the
- 17 situation.
- The legislative intent of the DNR and
- 19 the State Boat Act were to foster the development,
- 20 use and enjoyment of the waters of Maryland. The
- 21 right to further this intent is to not allow the

- 1 proposed speed limit and to keep the waters as they
- 2 should be, for the enjoyment of the citizens.
- 3 Thank you.
- 4 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Questions for
- 5 you, hold on just a minute, we've got a question
- 6 for you. Al.
- 7 MR. SIMON: The majority of the
- 8 recreational boaters, are they local people or are
- 9 they from out of state?
- 10 MS. REICHLE: The people who own the
- 11 property there are the, most of the people who are
- 12 actually using the waters. They're local people
- with smaller size boats who go out and ski in the
- 14 area. Any of the larger boats that are from out of
- 15 state are the ones that are docked in the slips at
- 16 these marinas. As you can see, we're at the top of
- 17 the river, there's not much further you can go, so
- if anybody's up there skiing it's the people who
- 19 are local or the people who own slips at the
- 20 marinas.
- 21 MR. MARSH: Any other questions? Thank

1 you very much. 2 MS. REICHLE: Thank you for your time. 3 MR. MARSH: Anyone else who wishes to 4 speak against. Yes, sir. 5 THE REPORTER: Print your name before 6 you speak, please. 7 MR. REICHLE: Good morning. My name is 8 Warren Reichle, I'm a waterfront homeowner at 9 Locust Point in Elkton, Maryland and I do oppose 10 the proposed speed limit restrictions. And I'll 11 apologize to you now, I thought you would be 12 hearing Locust Point separate from Triton, so I'm 13 going to bounce between my two prepared speeches if 14 you would, please. I also carry with me 14 letters 15 from homeowners who are unable to attend and 16 they're in opposition of the speed limit 17 restriction, and I also carry another separate 14 18 letters from homeowners, because we thought we 19 would be hearing this separately, opposing the 20 Triton Marina request. 21 This section of the river is not a

- 1 boater destination, it is home for us. And over
- the 40-plus years that I've been at Locust Point
- 3 I've watched speedboaters from dry stack hydrofoils
- 4 to cigarettes run the channel, ski club skiers
- 5 practice with tykes, and rocking chairs with skis
- 6 mounted on them, seaplanes taking on and off and
- 7 Jet Skiers trying to catch any wake that they can.
- 8 This is what we love about this place, it's how we
- 9 live. This section of the river is where my
- 10 siblings and I learned to ski, where my wife and
- 11 her siblings learned to ski, and where we taught
- our children to ski while their grandparents
- 13 watched from their chairs on the bulkhead, where my
- 14 mother-in-law of 92 years sat and encouraged my
- 15 youngest daughter, who was in the river at high
- 16 tide not more than 30 feet from her, as she saw her
- 17 come up on skis for the first time. That was her
- 18 last summer on the river. And -- sorry. This is
- 19 how we live here and it's part of our lives, and
- 20 part of this also contains boat wakes and wave
- 21 actions, we grew up with it.

1	If the DNR restricts the speed in front
2	of Locust Point, skiing traffic will be forced over
3	to the Taylor and the Cove Marinas. Those are the
4	two below Locust Point on the right-hand side. And
5	we have to do it at high tide. But we will be
6	forced to go over there. The Locust Point owners
7	are the same owners as Taylor's as they have
8	stated. And that they will be it's reasonable
9	to presume that if we all start skiing in front of
10	there that they're going to need to put request for
11	a speed restriction there. The Cove Marina, the
12	one downriver from it, is not part of this, but
13	they're going to be forced into it because
14	everybody's going to be there. So what we're going
15	to end up with is petitions coming later to
16	restrict the river in those two places. Then
17	what's going to end up happening is now we all have
18	to either go upriver around the point at high tide
19	with the ski club and terrorize those people up
20	there or, because of the flats that are in the area
21	downriver, we would all have to go below Elkmore,

- 1 between the channel, the navigable intercoastal
- 2 waterway and Elkmore, and terrorize those folks
- 3 there.
- 4 That additional congestion I believe and
- 5 my neighbors believe is going to create a safety
- 6 issue and a navigational issue because of the
- 7 existing channel and all the congestion that will
- 8 be in those locations. Since we live on the water
- 9 we make it our responsibility to protect our
- 10 property, our bulkheads, our piers, our floats,
- 11 with mooring, boatlifts and that sort of thing. We
- do not try to shift the responsibility upon the
- 13 state or the public. Yet this is what the marina
- 14 is attempting to do. When Locust Point Marina had
- 15 fuel pumps at the end of the dock, Harry Ott that
- 16 built it back in the '80s -- in the 50s, I'm sorry,
- 17 had breakwater boards across the head of both piers
- 18 to protect the boats within the piers from wake and
- 19 wave action. Since the pumps have been removed,
- the breakwaters have been removed and deep water
- 21 slips added to the head of the piers, exposing them

1 directly to boat traffic and exposing those boats 2 within the piers as well. 3 Some 20 years ago a Cecil County court 4 ordered the marinas not to extend beyond their 5 current state. They ignored that rule by expanding 6 and were negligent to their clients by removing the 7 breakwaters in that expansion process. The locals 8 know to stay off the piers with wakes. We do just 9 that. DNR regulation regarding this would need to 10 be enforced. Instead, DNR is considering yet another rule that the out-of-town boaters won't 11 12 adhere to, that DNR cannot enforce, while you take 13 away a way of life that we've enjoyed for 14 generations. 15 The remedy here is for the state to 16 enforce existing boating rules and the marinas to 17 accept their responsibility to their clients with 18 responsible designs through the application of 19 proven and standard industry technology. There are 20 a great number of families on the river that are 21 multigenerational, citizens with history who are

- 1 concerned with our future and the future of
- 2 generations to come. This speed restriction would
- 3 not be in the best interest of those citizens.
- 4 Also, in consideration of the Triton
- 5 request. When I was a young boy my father had his
- 6 boat at Triton as well as Locust Point. The gas
- 7 dock had and still does have its breakwaters, the
- 8 two existing piers. The piers that you see
- 9 somewhat to the -- upriver, around the point, those
- 10 are not active right now because they're, they were
- 11 the floating docks that my family's boat was at.
- 12 Those docks were replaced by the two fingers that
- 13 run parallel to the channel. Those fingers are
- 14 exposing each and every one of those boats to any
- 15 wave action upriver. If you were on the Elk this
- 16 morning when I left, the wind at 20 knots is
- 17 throwing a white cap that is ungodly up there.
- 18 Yet, these boats are not only exposed to wake
- 19 action, they're exposed to the normal action of the
- 20 river, and that's one of the things that Ed Taylor
- 21 and Zach Grunak (phonetic) and Harry Ott, and Plum

- 1 Point when those were built, that's why those
- 2 breakwaters were there, and the Locust Point with
- 3 their floating docks at the ramp, that is a new
- 4 addition, you know, and I believe that the marina
- 5 should have considered that and considered the
- 6 safety of its people by maybe designing some type
- 7 of breakwater as well. And we cannot come within a
- 8 hundred feet of the pier right now because there
- 9 are seven private buoys that run from the heads of
- 10 the pier out to the channel, creating a
- 11 navigational hazard. You can't run a boat
- 12 responsibly between the channel and the head of
- 13 that marina because there are seven buoys there
- 14 that aren't supposed to be there. That's the end
- of my presentation.
- MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Any
- 17 questions? Mick.
- 18 MR. BLACKISTONE: Where do you live
- 19 along the river?
- MR. REICHLE: If you see the Taylor
- 21 Marina I live three homes north upriver. I don't

- 1 have a pier, but I'm between that, the Taylor
- 2 Marina and the next pier you see jetting out.
- 3 MR. BLACKISTONE: Okay.
- 4 MR. REICHLE: I also own the property on
- 5 the other side of the home which I hope to build my
- 6 retirement home so that my children can use the
- 7 waterfront home.
- 8 MR. MARSH: Any other questions? No.
- 9 Thank you, sir. Appreciate that. Anyone else
- 10 against that would like to speak?
- MS. CHOOKESSI: Hello, I'm Rebecca
- 12 Chookessi. I've never spoken at a podium before so
- 13 I'm going to massacre this, but I live in the upper
- 14 Elk River, approximately right around here, and I'm
- speaking on behalf of my parents and I and a couple
- of my friends that couldn't be here today. We,
- 17 every summer we always enjoy boating. I don't have
- 18 a boat myself but my friends do, they take me with
- 19 them wherever they go, but having, excuse me, but
- 20 having these wakes -- I'm sorry.
- 21 MR. MARSH: That's all right.

1 MS. CHOOKESSI: But really storm damage 2 is more important, like concerning -- I'm so sorry. 3 I'm very nervous. 4 That's okay, go ahead. MR. MARSH: 5 MS. CHOOKESSI: But the biggest point I 6 have right now is -- yeah, I know. Congestion and 7 safety is the biggest safety hazard that will be 8 imposed by installing these wake markers, because 9 where I am most of the, where the ramp, the new 10 ramp that is built won't -- I'm so sorry. 11 MR. MARSH: We understand what you're 12 trying to say. 13 MRS. CHOOKESSI: I'm her mother, I could 14 take over for her. 15 MR. MARSH: That's good, Mom, that's 16 good. 17 MRS. CHOOKESSI: I'm Lois Chookessi, I 18 live at 269 River Road, as she pointed out, right 19 around the corner of that cove. What is the 20 motivation for the petition is what I want to know? 21 MR. MARSH: Speak into the mic.

1 MRS. CHOOKESSI: What is the motivation 2 for the petition? Is it safety? Okay. How many 3 safety emergencies have there been at Locust Point? 4 Or Triton? Okay. None. Has it been proven that 5 past boat damage has resulted from recreational 6 No, to my knowledge it has not. This is wakes? 7 about a small business lobby whose clientele are 8 largely from out of state trying to impose their 9 will on the local population. Excuse me. 10 about transient convenience for nonresidents at the 11 expense and convenience of the local residents. 12 The real safety issues will become forcing 13 recreational boating activities into the, downriver 14 into the Elk and C&D Canal, which is the shipping 15 channel, and the upper Elk River will get shipped 16 up into our area, so traffic will be forced 17 downriver into the shipping channel or will be 18 forced into the Elk, which is the cove right around 19 that corner where I live. Very shallow water, you 20 only have a little bit of distance down there in 21 the front where you can actually ski, which will

- 1 cause major congestion. A lot of people stuck out
- there in the summer, believe me, they don't know
- 3 the water. Two Jet Skis stuck out there this past
- 4 week.
- 5 This increased waterway congestion will
- 6 obviously impose a risk to the safety of the
- 7 boaters. This is the real danger. I beg this
- 8 panel not to cave to the commercialization and
- 9 overregulation of our waterway community. Instead
- 10 let the DNR enforce the regulations that have been
- in place, and I feel they have been doing a good
- 12 job and I thank you.
- MR. MARSH: Thank you very much, we
- 14 appreciate both of you doing that. Mom, stay
- 15 around a minute, somebody might want to ask you a
- 16 question, daughter or mom, either one. Either one,
- 17 any questions?
- 18 MRS. CHOOKESSI: And I have been there
- 19 for 28 years and my family was there 30 years
- 20 before that. We've been there all of our lives.
- MR. MARSH: Thank you so much, we

1 appreciate you doing that. Al has one question 2 over here. 3 MR. SIMON: Did I understand that some 4 personal watercraft got stuck out there? 5 MRS. CHOOKESSI: Yes. As you go around 6 the corner, Locust Point to the right, if you don't 7 stay within a certain area between there, if you 8 are going through that channel, that water can go 9 as low as two foot. People can come around there, 10 you have to stay in a certain spot. Locals know 11 where to go, locals know the area. 12 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Anybody else have a question? Thank you very much, we 13 14 appreciate both of you speaking. Anybody else 15 against? Thank you. 16 THE REPORTER: Print your name please 17 before you --18 MR. SCHAFER: I got here a few minutes 19 late --20 THE CHAIRMAN: Print. 21 MR. SCHAFER: Good morning. My name is

- 1 Zach Schafer, I spent 26 years living on the Elk
- 2 River. That's because I'm 26. My grandparents
- 3 purchased a property on the Elk River two doors
- 4 down from the Reichles in 1936, we've been there
- 5 for almost 80 years and we've been enjoying it the
- 6 whole time. We really valued our relationship with
- 7 the marinas around us. We live literally next door
- 8 to Taylor Marina. My father helped Ed Taylor take
- 9 care of his boat when my father was a teenager.
- 10 We've had a good relationship with them and their
- 11 clientele. I don't view this as an adversarial
- 12 relationship, I view it as a problem that is like
- 13 to both the marinas and the residents that we don't
- 14 want -- you know, erosion, damaging our boats are
- problems for us as much as they are for the marina,
- so if there are irresponsible boaters out there, we
- 17 have as much an interest in containing those
- 18 activities as possible, but as the previous
- 19 speakers have thoroughly gone through this is a way
- of life for us. We have enjoyed waterskiing, we
- 21 have enjoyed just running through the water.

1 That's why we're on the water, that's why we love 2 the Chesapeake Bay, and to restrict those 3 activities is really to, to curtail why we love 4 this area, and there really is not another place 5 like the upper Elk River to me and my friends and 6 to my family and to go down below the canal is a 7 much wider open space, it's not suitable for 8 skiing, it's a place with very, very large 9 commercial shipping traffic and it's, it's just not 10 home, and this part of the river is home and there 11 are solutions as the other speakers have gone 12 through to contain wake and to contain 13 irresponsible boating. 14 I just helped my sister pass her DNR 15 boating safety course and she knows all about the 16 hundred-foot restriction and most of -- I can speak 17 for all of my friends who've ever driven a boat, 18 for my family and our neighbors that we see on the 19 boats, we're responsible people because we like to 20 be responsible caretakers of this part of the river 21 and if there are problems, particularly if the new

1 ramp north of us is starting to bring in traffic 2 that is not mindful of either the, where the 3 channel is or just what the rules are, there are 4 ways to enforce that, and I understand this is a 5 time of scarce resources for everyone in the state 6 and there are only so many river police to go 7 around, but if there are problems it would be 8 useful and I would support having more enforcement 9 in our part of the river because as a skier we 10 don't like erratic boat drivers coming too close to 11 us, too close to our skiers, too close to our homes 12 or our docks, and I would support, you know, 13 working with the marina to call those in and solve 14 those problems. But to curtail the use of the 15 river, which is common to be enjoyed by all of us, 16 I think would be a real tragedy. 17 And if you see just a few residents, 18 neighbors, friends of this part of the river today, 19 I only found out about this after the public 20 comment deadline had passed because I don't 21 currently own a boat, I'm not currently out on the

1 river every day and the buoy was too far away in a 2 fairly obscure part of the cove to the south there 3 to see, so I only found out about it because of 4 neighbors who were out there, and if more people, 5 more of our neighbors who don't own boats were out 6 there seeing the buoy with the number to call in to 7 find out more about the proposed restrictions, you 8 would have more people here. This is a really 9 tight community that really enjoys using the river. 10 MR. MARSH: Thank you very much, we 11 appreciate that. Any questions from the committee? 12 Okay, none. Thank you very much. We appreciate 13 you. 14 MR. SCHAFER: Thank you. 15 MR. MARSH: Anybody else to speak 16 Try to not -- we understand your 17 concern -- to not repeat too much of what has been 18 said. 19 MS. REICHLE: I will try really hard, 20 but Ken, get your business cards out, you're going

to have a lot of people looking to buy real estate

21

1 in Locust Point when I'm done. 2 Good morning. My name is Karen Reichle. 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Use the microphone. There we go. State your MR. MARSH: 5 name for the record. 6 MS. REICHLE: Sure. I'm Karen Reichle. 7 As a resident of over 15 years of Locust Point I 8 strongly oppose the new speed restrictions. I love 9 Locust Point and the close-knit community that it 10 We come from various walks of life and income 11 levels, but we all have the love of the upper Elk 12 and the Chesapeake Bay in common. Can you tell? 13 Whether we're boating enthusiasts or kayakers, 14 crabbers or bird watchers, variety is the spice of 15 life on the upper Elk. This speed restriction will 16 change this area forever. The locals are losing 17 our rights to enjoy the river so that the 18 out-of-towners can sit on their boats on the 19 weekend and not rock. The economy is bad and gas 20 is expensive, we understand, very few boats on the 21 river this year; however, a lot of the boats had

- sat at the docks for days, and we understand that the cost is expensive, but we sat and watched these
- 3 people use their boats as a summer home and I
- 4 understand that it is for them.
- 5 The problem is I sit on my dock and I
- 6 see these boat owners turn their boats bow in/stern
- out on windy days, set up their dock chairs, have
- 8 their drinks and any little wave would be a
- 9 disturbance at that point in time. The waves that
- 10 we see today from the high tide and last Saturday
- 11 are far more dangerous to those boats than any wave
- 12 from any small boat that goes up and down that
- 13 river. We sat and watched the boats at Locust
- 14 Point Marina last Saturday bounce all over the
- 15 place. The ropes were very loose because the tide
- 16 was high and the waves were bouncing them from side
- 17 to side and up and down.
- I guess my concern is is there any
- documentation as to the damage that these waves are
- 20 doing? In this day of technology I find it hard to
- 21 believe there is no photos, no documentation, no

- 1 reports to DNR, no one has taken any pictures.
- 2 There's a web cam at Locust Point Marina, you can
- 3 go online and see what's going on at the marina.
- 4 No one has caught boat owners coming closer than a
- 5 hundred feet of the pier and causing damage to the
- 6 boats? I find that hard to believe that we
- 7 wouldn't have photos of this and the damage that's
- 8 being done.
- 9 I guess my concern is that the present
- 10 Locust Point Marina has a new owner, and he's the
- 11 fifth owner since I've lived here. I understand a
- 12 lot of the stuff he's not aware of and I've never
- 13 met him, but I do have photos of when that pier was
- 14 built and home video that I could share with him.
- 15 It was the late 1950s, it was the first marina to
- 16 go in at Locust, it was actually called Ott's Beach
- 17 right at the corner where the Locust Point Marina
- 18 was. My parents were excellent, wonderful, very
- 19 close friends of those original owners. When they
- 20 bought it it was farmland. The idea of Locust
- 21 Point or Ott's Beach was that families could come

- down and enjoy the beach, boating and swimming.
- 2 There were seaplanes that landed there all the time
- 3 when I was a child. This six-mile-per-hour limit
- 4 will now keep the seaplanes from landing. They
- 5 land the direct course from the little airport over
- 6 behind Triton, Cecil County Airport. They land at
- 7 the head of the river and they drive down. We
- 8 won't have seaplanes anymore. So this is changing
- 9 quite a few things for everyone.
- We're limited on skiing in the area,
- 11 Cabin Johns Cove, when I was a child we used to ski
- down there. Bohemia River there's speed
- 13 restrictions, so that's limited our skiing area.
- 14 We ski in the channel or the shipping area. Sc
- we're very limited up in the upper part of the
- 16 Chesapeake as to where we can ski and this would
- 17 eliminate another area. I beg of you and I beg of
- 18 the board to please keep our area the way it is.
- 19 It's been that way for the generations, I would
- love to pass this down to my children, my
- 21 grandchildren and my great grandchildren just as my

- 1 parents did. Thank you for your time. 2 MR. MARSH: Thank you very much, we 3 appreciate that. Anyone have any questions from the board? No questions. 5 MS. REICHLE: I would like to ask Ken if 6 this is going to decrease our property values as 7 well? 8 MR. MARSH: That's a little bit off of 9 the subject. 10 MS. REICHLE: I would never sell, but it 11 is a concern. 12 MR. MARSH: Thank you very much. 13 That's not part of the THE CHAIRMAN: 14 issue, so thank you very much. 15
- Are you against, sir?
- 16 MR. BALDWIN: Yes.
- 17 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Try to
- keep, if we can, to about three minutes or so, and 18
- 19 not be redundant if possible. Because we've got
- 20 quite a bit of work to do today and we don't want
- 21 those that are sitting there not to have an

- opportunity, so we understand your concern, we'd
- 2 like to hear from you, sir.
- MR. BALDWIN: Thank you. My name is
- 4 Richard Baldwin and I can take a hint, I will be
- 5 brief. I just want to say that I'm a relatively
- 6 new resident to the Locust Point area, we've been
- 7 there for four summers. I retired about a year ago
- 8 and have spent most of this summer at home. We're
- 9 located between Locust Point Marina and Cove Point
- 10 Marina, Cove Marina, and we've got a 150-foot pier.
- 11 We're at 7 River Road. At the end of that pier I
- 12 keep a 18-foot ski boat for my grown children to
- use and my only testimony is that I've just not
- 14 seen any problems in the area. Our boat has not
- 15 been beat because of wakes or anything like that.
- We have more of a problem with weather and
- 17 weather-related issues. That's all I have.
- 18 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Any questions?
- 19 Thank you, sir. Appreciate that.
- 20 Anybody else against? Are there any
- 21 other questions from the committee? Anybody else

- 1 wish to speak for or against, we want to be sure
- that everybody has an opportunity. Okay. We're
- 3 moving on. Thank you for coming, we appreciate
- 4 your concerns over that and thank you for coming
- 5 and speaking.
- 6 Chester River. Let's wait a minute for
- 7 Mike to give us a rundown.
- 8 MR. GRANT: The Chester River Yacht and
- 9 Country Club is requesting, originally a no wake,
- 10 but they were happy I believe with a six-knot zone
- 11 during the boating season. Their concern is
- 12 because of the channel as you can see right here,
- you have a mark here, so everything on the inside,
- there's a lot of traffic coming down and coming up,
- and this item, I'll draw this pier in because
- 16 Google Earth didn't have the pier, they're getting
- 17 a lot of damage. They have a sailing program,
- 18 junior sailing, which is affected by this, they
- operate up in this area a lot. They get wake a
- 20 great deal. We have kayakers, nonpowered vessels
- 21 that frequent the area, and also I believe

- 1 Washington College has a shell program, which is a
- 2 bit more involved in the discussion, but they also
- 3 use the area. This whole area up on this side is
- 4 about I believe around nine feet of water in here
- 5 and then it gets steadily shallower over here on
- 6 the Queen Anne's side. That is their request.
- 7 MR. MARSH: Okay. Thank you very much.
- 8 We would like to have the officer first if we
- 9 could, sir, just to give us his views on that, if
- 10 we could. Thank you.
- 11 State your name and print it there if
- 12 you would, sir.
- OFFICER BATCHELOR: I'm Officer Steven
- 14 Batchelor assigned to Kent County. I've been there
- 15 for two years. I'm very familiar with this river,
- 16 I grew up on the Chester River my whole life, and
- this area, most of the traffic that you can find is
- 18 usually small crabbing vessels, normally 20 feet
- 19 and below. There's some larger boats that come in
- and they're usually the ones that will use this
- 21 channel. Most of the smaller boats are actually

- 1 over on this side, on the Queen Anne's, and if you
- go further south of the area, that's where they'll
- 3 have most of the skiing activities, it comes into a
- 4 big cove. And like the other gentleman was saying,
- 5 there is a lot of sailing activity here and
- 6 kayakers and Washington College rowing team that
- 7 practices in this area, but I don't see there's a
- 8 need for it just because most of the traffic that
- 9 does come up to this area is usually boats that are
- 10 under 20 feet and they're not drawing or throwing
- 11 that much wake.
- 12 There is some larger boats that go to a
- marina that's up here on the Kent County side and
- some that come for, during the holiday weekends
- 15 like Fourth of July, Labor Day and Memorial Day
- 16 weekend, but it's, it doesn't, I mean it's not a
- 17 lot of traffic like you would see on other rivers.
- 18 The other marina is up here and there's a small one
- off a set of condos that's a privately owned pier,
- 20 but most of the traffic is just, like I said, is
- vessels that are under 20 feet in length.

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1
                MR. MARSH: Any questions for the
2
    officer?
 3
                MR. LEVITAN: Have you seen any safety
 4
    problems with the sailing programs in that area?
5
                OFFICER BATCHELOR: I've on occasion
 6
     seen some smaller boats getting close to them and
7
    usually if I'm in the area I will go over to them
8
    and say hey, give them some distance, stay away
9
     from them, don't rock them. I do the same thing
10
    with the kayaks, but it's not that often.
11
    the boats that are coming through, because theres's
12
    one landing, actually there's a landing here at the
13
    marina they use some and there's one farther up and
14
    the rest of the landings are farther down on the
15
    river and most of the time they're staying down
16
     south closer to Rolph's Wharf where there is a
17
     speed zone, but there is some between Rolph's and
18
     the Chester River Bridge.
19
                THE CHAIRMAN:
                               I have one question, sir.
20
    Have you received many complaints in this area and
21
     if so, what are they?
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1 OFFICER BATCHELOR: I received one 2 complaint the whole -- there's only one complaint that I know of this summer, I received it from the 3 yacht club for a vessel throwing too much wake, and 5 I wasn't in the area at the time. I went over 6 there and when I got there it was just smaller 7 vessels running around. 8 MR. MARSH: Russ. 9 MR. DWYER: Isn't there a couple of 10 buoy, private buoys that say you're responsible for 11 your wake in front of the marina? 12 OFFICER BATCHELOR: Yes, there is. 13 MR. MARSH: Where are they located? 14 MR. DWYER: About where the markings are 15 now. 16 OFFICER BATCHELOR: About where the 17 markings are. 18 MR. GRANT: We gave them two signs, they 19 did have signs on either end, on the north side and 20 the south side. 21 MR. DWYER: I believe those signs have

- 1 been there for 10 or 15 years.
- 2 MR. MARSH: Any other questions for the
- 3 officer? Thank you very much.
- 4 The next speakers are for the proposal
- 5 mostly, and if you state the name and print it,
- 6 we'd appreciate that very much. These are for the
- 7 proposal. Thank you.
- 8 MR. ROBBINS: My name is Hanson Robbins
- 9 and I'm commodore of the Chester River Yacht and
- 10 Country Club. We have submitted a formal request
- 11 and Mr. Grant has been to visit the site and we
- 12 have discussed some of the concerns that Washington
- 13 College has regarding our request. As Mr. Grant
- 14 outlined, we have two docks and the channel runs
- 15 very close to those docks. Most of the time on
- 16 weekends right there we do have large boats come up
- 17 to visit Chestertown and they anchor up at the
- 18 marina area. Some of these large boats, most of
- 19 the large boats are very respectful about slowing
- down in front of our docks, but there are some that
- 21 don't, and we have photographs to show the kind of

1 speeds that some of them have made. 2 In the summertime during July and 3 mid-August and early August we have a very active 4 sailing program with very young kids, 10 to 14, 5 learning to sail, and as you would expect they are 6 out all across the river and a lot of them are just 7 beginners and they do, they do capsize fairly 8 often. We have small boat racing on Friday nights 9 and hope to expand that as an activity. We have 10 seen big boats go by and absolutely cause a rocking 11 horse effect on all of the boats that are tied up 12 at the dock. We have seen speedboats come by and 13 swamp shells that are rowing on the river on a 14 It's quite a concern there during quiet afternoon. 15 the time. 16 Now, John Wagner, who is the head of the 17 Washington College boating operations, he's here 18 today and he and I have talked. They have a 19 concern about having rowing races on the river, and 20 the course goes right in front of our club. 21 season is really the fall and the spring, and so

- 1 I'm suggesting a compromise that would satisfy
- 2 their needs and our needs and that is to split the
- 3 river. On the right-hand side of the river, the
- 4 Queen Anne's County side of the river, there would
- 5 be no speed limit. That would allow people who
- 6 have Jet Skis and small boats to go at any speed.
- 7 And as for a six-mile-an-hour zone north and south
- 8 of our docks, that would apply from May 15 to
- 9 September 1st, that's our season, and the rest of
- 10 the time don't have any speed. I'd be glad to
- 11 answer any questions.
- MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Any
- 13 questions from the committee? Just a moment.
- 14 Steve, do you have --
- MR. KLING: Yeah. It was my impression
- 16 that you were requesting a speed limit in the red
- 17 checked area, but you just waived halfway cross the
- 18 river. What are you asking, what are you --
- MR. ROBBINS: The initial, the initial
- 20 request as we submitted to you was for the whole
- 21 river all the way across, so we're asking for a

compromise of just splitting the river. 1 2 MR. KLING: Mike, could you speak to 3 that? I see you shaking your head. 4 MR. GRANT: I misunderstood the request. 5 I'm looking at the original request. MR. ROBBINS: At the time we submitted 6 7 the request we had not talked to Washington College 8 people. 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Just a second, sir. 10 want to confirm that what we have on the board is 11 indeed the true request. If you're requesting 12 anything other than that, that's going to be 13 outside of discussion today, so you know that. 14 Okay. We're checking right now, sir. 15 MR. SIMON: Didn't we have this request 16 previously? 17 MR. KLING: Yes. 18 MR. SIMON: Has it been three years? 19 MR. MARSH: Yes. 20 MR. KLING: Yes. 21 MR. GRANT: What I understand, it reads

- 1 no wake zone, six knots in parentheses, from point
- 2 two nautical miles northwest of 39, which I believe
- 3 is down here; is that correct?
- 4 MR. ROBBINS: Yep, yep.
- 5 MR. GRANT: On Chester River to the red
- 6 dot at 40 in front of the docks of Chester River
- 7 Yacht and Country Club during the boating season.
- 8 And I believe we met on the docks and discussed the
- 9 smaller area.
- MR. ROBBINS: I sent you -- is this on,
- 11 I sent you an e-mail later on after discussion with
- 12 Washington College to revise the request.
- MR. GRANT: I stand corrected. So
- 14 you're essentially -- now you're requesting this,
- 15 like this?
- MR. ROBBINS: Essentially, yes.
- MR. GRANT: So from straight across the
- 18 river from the red halfway, straight across the
- 19 river from the green halfway, this whole area right
- 20 here?
- 21 MR. ROBBINS: You can be above the

1 green, it doesn't have to be way down here. 2 MR. GRANT: This area is what you're 3 requesting? That's affirmative. MR. ROBBINS: MR. GRANT: Okay. 6 MR. MARSH: That wasn't the original 7 request that we have. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: He's saying it is. 9 MR. GRANT: Yeah --10 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to confirm? 11 MR. GRANT: Give me a moment and I'll 12 try to correct it. 13 (Pause in the proceedings.) 14 It's revised, I apologize, MR. GRANT: 15 panel. 16 MR. JONES: I have a question. 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, thank you. Just a 18 second. 19 MR. MARSH: Thornell. 20 What is the depth of the MR. JONES: 21 water outside of that area?

1 MR. ROBBINS: To the right, what you see 2 over there, that's around five feet to three feet 3 over to the edge and the middle where the red is the channel I believe is around 12 to 15 feet at low tide. We think this will solve our problem 6 because the large boats that we're concerned about 7 would have to go in the channel. 8 MR. MARSH: Any other questions? 9 MS. CRAIG: I'm guessing on your 10 original request which we have from April 5, it 11 says no wake zone to be established in front of the 12 docks of the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. 13 What made you change it to half the river? 14 MR. ROBBINS: In our discussions with 15 Washington College, who have rowing races and they 16 go 10 knots, and therefore they would be in 17 violation of the letter of the law, even though 18 they don't have wakes. 19 MS. CRAIG: Okay, I guess in our 20 original description from Mike the length was 25 21 feet from the docks and now we're talking a much

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1
     larger area; is that correct?
2
                MR. ROBBINS: I couldn't -- that was the
 3
    actual distances, but --
                MS. CRAIG: You're asking for a larger
5
    distance?
 6
                MR. ROBBINS: Approximately, the basic,
7
    the channel is what we're looking about, yeah.
8
                MS. CRAIG: Okay, thank you.
9
                MR. MARSH: Thornell.
10
                MR. JONES: How does the larger distance
11
    affect the rowing?
12
                MR. ROBBINS: I would think that
13
    Washington College would love to see a no wake zone
14
    everywhere, but they do have the concern that these
15
    rowboats go 10 knots and so how do you -- do you do
16
    a carve-out for rowboats, can the DNR do something
17
     like that? That would answer everybody's problem.
18
                MR. JONES: Where do they row?
19
                MR. ROBBINS: Where do they row?
20
                MR. JONES: In the channel?
21
                MR. ROBBINS: Is there a light?
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1 MR. GRANT: Yeah. 2 MR. ROBBINS: They start the races here 3 and then finish about here. Zooming down the river 4 about 10 knots, but there's no wake in that 5 situation. 6 I have a question for you. MS. ALLISON: 7 Is there a reason that the rowing shells or the 8 boats that are racing need to be in the channel? 9 Is there a reason they don't stay to shallower 10 water? 11 MR. ROBBINS: I'll -- John can answer 12 that himself, if he's still here, but he told me 13 that the course has to be straight, can't have it 14 curved, so if you want to have a race like this for 15 the right distance it has to be sort of like that. 16 MR. MARSH: Makes sense. Any other 17 questions? 18 I have a question. THE CHAIRMAN: 19 Repeating what you just said, it would appear then 20 that where you're requesting the restrictions it 21 will only have a small effect on the race.

1 correct? 2 MR. ROBBINS: It would interfere with 3 the finish of the race over here, yes. It would interfere with THE CHAIRMAN: 5 the finish of the race; however, it would have no 6 effect on the race itself because there are no 7 restrictions in that area, correct? 8 MS. CRAIG: Currently. 9 MR. ROBBINS: I don't understand your 10 There will be -- they would be going question. 11 through this red zone at 10 knots; however, most of 12 these races are at a time before or after the dates 13 that we requested. 14 MR. DWYER: If that's the problem, why 15 don't you race north instead of south? 16 MR. ROBBINS: I can't speak to that, 17 let's let John Wagner answer that. 18 MR. MARSH: We'll have him up next. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, go right ahead. 20 Might I just clarify for a MR. SHELLER: 21 minute? What you're asking is there will be a no

1 wake zone in lieu of a six-knot speed limit? 2 MR. ROBBINS: Six-knot, we're asking for 3 a six-knot. MR. SHELLER: Asking for six knots, not 5 a no wake zone. 6 MR. ROBBINS: Yes, that's stated in 7 here. 8 MR. SHELLER: Then you are putting forth 9 an argument for something that Washington College 10 does not want; is that what you're trying to say? 11 MR. ROBBINS: Technically the shells go 12 10 knots. 13 MR. SHELLER: Yes, I was an 14 intercollegiate rower for four years on the Severn 15 River and the course has to be marked out in 16 advance to the people patrolling during that 17 intercollegiate race on the river. It's not an 18 unstructured event. I don't see how that plays 19 into this particular request. I'm trying to 20 understand that. 21 MR. ROBBINS: What we try to do is, if

- 1 the college is practicing rowing in the summertime
- when we're asking for this, this no wake zone, they
- 3 could, they could practice over here.
- 4 MR. LEVITAN: It's not a no wake zone
- 5 you're asking for, you're asking for a six-knot
- 6 zone.
- 7 MR. ROBBINS: Affirmative, six-knot
- 8 zone.
- 9 MR. LEVITAN: Go ahead.
- 10 MR. ROBBINS: They could practice over
- 11 here during the summertime.
- MR. MARSH: Another question.
- 13 THE CHAIRMAN: I have a question here.
- 14 A little confusing, if you're requesting a six-knot
- zone and yet the racing shells are going at 10
- 16 knots, it's a contradiction, you can't have it both
- 17 ways. Would you like to address that?
- MR. ROBBINS: You can have it go 10
- 19 knots after September 1st and before May 15th.
- 20 MR. DWYER: I would like the chairman
- 21 from the college to speak.

1 He wants to speak next after MR. MARSH: 2 you, sir, we'll have him up and answer those 3 questions. THE CHAIRMAN: All right. 5 MR. MARSH: Okay, sir, another 6 supporter. Thank you very much for that, sir. 7 MR. EMLING: If I could speak next for 8 the college? 9 MR. MARSH: That would be fine and we'll 10 have the person from Washington College who could 11 answer all the racing question there. 12 MR. EMLING: I have a different issue which ties in with Hanson's --13 14 MR. MARSH: Are you for? 15 MR. EMLING: I'm for. 16 MR. MARSH: Come right up and state your 17 name and print it and limit it to about three 18 minutes if you would, sir. 19 THE REPORTER: Sir, sign your name 20 first, please. 21 Good morning, ladies MR. EMLING: Yes.

- 1 and gentlemen, I'm going to make this very brief.
- 2 I'm the director of the Chester River Yacht and
- 3 Country Club sailing school known as the Chester
- 4 River Sailing School, I just wanted to make a very
- 5 brief statement about that school. We had 58
- 6 children last summer. Those 58 children range in
- 7 age from eight to 15. It's during July and August.
- 8 As you have seen, the channel runs right next to
- 9 the dock. The children are launched from that
- 10 beach and must get out into the river, out into the
- 11 channel. If we can, if the wind is right we take
- them to the other side of river, but we have to go
- 13 past the channel to get there.
- 14 Of the 58 children that I had this
- 15 summer, over half of them have never been in a
- 16 sailboat or commanded their own vessel before, and
- 17 they're out there alone. They're in the little
- 18 Optimist dingies and five or six children are
- 19 learning to sail on Sunfish. This is their first
- 20 venture. I have four chase boats out there and we
- 21 carry air horns with us because the boaters during

- 1 the summer that are all coming to Chestertown, 2 which is a designated area, cruising area, cruising 3 boats coming in, we use air horns to warn the boats 4 which are exceeding six knots and throwing wakes, 5 and it depends on the configuration of the boat as 6 to how much wake they're going to throw. We warn 7 them with the air horn to get them to slow down 8 because they're going sometime right through the 9 fleet of children. 10 Opties as you know and Sunfish are a bit 11 shaky, the children are very shaky as they're 12 learning to sail, so I have some statistics for you 13 here on this and I will pass that out. That's the 14 reason during that period which we've specified, 15 the summer period, we would like to have restricted 16 speed there for the safety of these children who 17 are trying to learn out to sail. That's my 18 presentation. 19 THE REPORTER: Sir, could you state your
- 21 MR. EMLING: I'm sorry, it's Robert

name for me, please?

20

1 Emling, E-M-L-I-N-G. 2 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. 3 MR. BLACKISTONE: What do your 4 students -- are they in class just during the week? 5 MR. EMLING: The students are Monday 6 through Friday in the morning from roughly 9 7 o'clock, 8:30, 9 to 1 o'clock. 8 MR. BLACKISTONE: 9 to 1. 9 MR. EMLING: Yes, and then we do not 10 have afternoon activities, but this year we're 11 instituting an advanced course, those children that 12 have learned to sail during the week and are 13 showing promise we will have Saturday advanced 14 sailing and what that amounts to is learning to 15 race, and we will have on Saturday out in front of 16 the club racing with the same children in the 17 Opties or the Sunfish and Sunday afternoon racing 18 for them as well so they can put their new skills 19 to use if they want to volunteer to do that. 20 MR. BLACKISTONE: Let me clarify 21 something. So at first you said, or the other

1 fellow said that you sailed in that area off the 2 shore, right in there, that's where I thought the 3 class was. You just said if possible you will go across the channel to the other side of the river. 5 MR. EMLING: Well, depends on where the 6 wind is blowing, but we'll use the whole river. 7 take them off -- the last week we did, the wind was 8 out of the southwest, we went right up the channel 9 towards Chestertown and then had to tack back and 10 forth to get home, so yes, we'll use the whole 11 river, but we launch, we launch them off the pier 12 and off the beach and the first part of the week we 13 stay pretty close for safety reasons. 14 MR. BLACKISTONE: But you're not, you're 15 not as concerned about safety because you do run 16 all over the river. If it's that big a problem --17 somewhere there's a contradiction in what you're 18 saying here. You sail all over the river, these 19 kids are inexperienced. 20 MR. EMLING: No, they're not let go. 21 I understand that, you MR. BLACKISTONE:

1 have the chase boats and all that. 2 MR. EMLING: We herd them, yes, they're 3 kept in the vicinity. 4 MR. BLACKISTONE: But what I'm -- for 5 safety reasons you don't lock them in an area near 6 the club or right there, you will go across the 7 river, you'll go up the river, despite all the 8 boats that are coming back and forth across and up 9 and down. 10 MR. EMLING: Yes, that's correct. 11 MR. MARSH: Any other questions? 12 you, sir, we do appreciate that. Next person for. 13 Okay, anybody else for the request? Anybody else 14 opposed? Are you opposed? Come right up, sir. 15 State your name, please, and print it. 16 MR. WAGNER: Name is John Wagner, I'm 17 the waterfront director of Washington College and I 18 just wanted to address --19 MR. MARSH: Print your name, sir,

Thank you.

Actually our only

please, so we don't forget.

MR. WAGNER:

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1 concern -- the race course actually goes in the 2 other direction, it goes from the bottom to the 3 top. My only concern early with this request was 4 the time span. Our programs really don't start on 5 the river until September 1st and they conclude 6 before May 15th, that's graduation weekend, so any 7 racing that we would have would be in that time 8 frame, so it would not, would not apply. And the 9 rest of the time for practice and for the local 10 rowing club we can avoid that area, so actually 11 there really is no problem as long as we have the 12 May 15th - September 1. I don't know, what is the traditional boating season, date-wise? You said 13 14 boating season. 15 MR. GRANT: April 15 to --16 MR. WAGNER: Well, I would have a 17 tremendous issue with the April 15th, that would 18 definitely conflict with some of our racing. 19 matter of fact, on May 1st we had the Maryland 20 State Rowing Championships, we hosted them, so 21 every Maryland high school in Chestertown with five

1 or six hundred rowers and 1500 spectators, et 2 cetera, so it's--3 THE REPORTER: Sir, speak into the 4 microphone. 5 MR. WAGNER: And obviously a rowing 6 shell will go well in excess of 10 knots an hour, 7 and it's not just the rowing shells, it's the chase 8 boats and safety boats. 9 MR. DWYER: So if we went ahead with 10 this proposal, you would have a problem with it, 11 you couldn't race with your fast boats? 12 MR. WAGNER: No, I'm saying if the May 13 15th instead of April 15, if we go to May 15th, 14 then that would clear our, clear our racing 15 problem. 16 MR. DWYER: That's not the boating --17 MR. WAGNER: Because the course goes 18 from the pier down the river. 19 MR. DWYER: We can't change what is

legislated as the boating season, which is April

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15th.

1 MR. WAGNER: You cannot make the 2 alteration, that's the April 15th. 3 MR. DWYER: That's the state law, we can't alter that, you would have a problem with 4 5 t.hat.. 6 MR. WAGNER: Yeah, April 15, that would 7 be difficult. 8 MR. LEVITAN: I just--9 MR. MARSH: Hold on. MR. LEVITAN: I do know in the middle of 10 11 the summer you have a cardboard boat race and I 12 know that because my granddaughter was the winner 13 two years ago, so, so we're concerned about 14 cardboard boats. 15 MR. WAGNER: They don't do well in boat 16 wakes. 17 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Amy. 18 MS. CRAIG: Does Washington College have 19 any other boating, water activity clubs? 20 MR. WAGNER: We have kayaking, we have a 21 varsity sailing program also, and we use pretty

1 much the, the -- we actually go down below the 2 country club sometimes when the wind direction is 3 right, so we're out there with a fleet of boats. 4 Actually that's a problem with the six knots, is 5 the sailboats actually on a day like today 6 obviously can go well in excess of six knots. 7 was just chatting with somebody about the Miles 8 River, which is coming up, it has nothing do with 9 the Chester River, I have been onboard a log canoe 10 and we're going a lot faster than six knots, it's 11 more, it's not that -- I have absolutely no problem 12 with the country club wanting to limit boat wakes. 13 Actually, obviously, from our experience we know on 14 the Severn River boat wakes are not very good for 15 running shells, we have a very low freeboard, so we 16 have the dual interest here, yes, keep boat wakes 17 down, large boat wakes from eroding the shorelines 18 and upsetting the shells, but at the same time, if 19 you adhere to this six miles an hour during that 20 month between April 15th and May 15th, then it 21 would chop off the first 150 or 200 meters of our

- 1 race course, which we cannot alter because the race
- 2 course is 2,000 meters long, so we need every inch
- 3 of that space there.
- 4 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Thornell.
- 5 MS. CRAIG: He didn't answer my
- 6 question. Are there any powerboat activities or
- 7 clubs, wakeboarding, waterskiing?
- MR. WAGNER: Yes, we have a wakeboard
- 9 boat and waterski boat and they go way down, as a
- 10 matter of fact we keep pretty close tabs on them
- 11 because the rowers don't particularly care for the
- wakeboarders there, so I have ultimate control over
- where they go and what they do, so I have the
- 14 personal experience on that.
- 15 MR. MARSH: Thornell, I believe you had
- 16 a question there.
- MR. JONES: Did the, what was shown as
- 18 the original restricted zone, did that affect your
- 19 races?
- MR. WAGNER: Yes, both the original and
- 21 the expanded one there. If you go back, if you go

1 back to the original one, or just below that 2 section. 3 THE CHAIRMAN: We're getting there. MR. WAGNER: There were two piers on the 5 first map that you had up there, one with the 6 Chester River Yacht and Country Club pier and then 7 a pier, a 300-foot pier downriver of it. 8 downriver pier is actually the starting line for 9 the race boats. 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Just a moment, sir. 11 MR. GRANT: There we go. 12 There we go, so the lower MR. WAGNER: left-hand corner from our view here is the exact 13 14 position for the starting line. 15 MR. GRANT: Right there? 16 MR. WAGNER: Yes, and it cuts across and 17 the top right corner where the arrow is where the 18 1860 is, where the red dot is, that's the other 19 demarcation, that is, the race course goes outside 20 of that, so basically the race course would go from 21 the lower left corner to the upper right corner,

- 1 would be the length of it.
- I really don't think we have too big of
- 3 a problem with our local DNR guys for one Saturday
- 4 allows our launches and our racing shells to go
- 5 through there for one or two days.
- 6 MR. MARSH: Any other questions?
- 7 MR. KLING: I think you maybe just
- 8 answered it, how much of your activity is on
- 9 weekends as opposed to weekdays?
- 10 MR. WAGNER: All of the racing would be
- on weekends, all the rowing on weekends, Saturday
- 12 or Sunday.
- 13 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Any other
- 14 questions?
- MR. WAGNER: All of your chase boats are
- 16 flat bottom Carolina skiffs ranging from 16 to 19
- 17 feet.
- 18 MR. MARSH: Thank you very much. Any
- other questions from the committee? Thank you,
- 20 sir. Anybody else to speak against? Come on up.
- 21 If you could please limit it to about three minutes

1 if you could, please, and state your name and print 2 it. Thank you. 3 MS. WILLARD: I'm Lynda Willard and I 4 live directly across from the Chester River Yacht 5 and Country Club. So I'm not going to reiterate 6 everything that the Plum Point and Locust Point 7 Marina people that were against said because I 8 pretty much felt everything that they felt. 9 Hold on the mic up closer. MR. GRANT: 10 I'm just thinking. MS. WILLARD: 11 speaking for my fellow boaters and waterskiers, 12 what they said. If you impose a six-knot speed limit there -- we waterski downriver from the 13 14 country club because it's nice and smooth there, it 15 gets sheltered by the trees and even when there's a 16 lot of choppy water we can waterski down in that 17 If they do the six knot we're going to have 18 to relocate, which means going upriver, which is, 19 you have to go pretty far upriver before you can 20 get some smooth water, downriver is basically 21 impossible. So what I'd like to do, what I'm

- 1 hoping that we can do is to work well with the DNR
- 2 and not impose limits on recreational sites and the
- 3 recreational citizens that love to enjoy the river
- 4 without waterskiing and jet skiing or pleasure
- 5 boating.
- 6 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Any questions?
- 7 Thank you again very much. Anybody else? Anybody
- 8 else opposed?
- 9 MR. CAMPBELL: My name is Doug Campbell,
- 10 I'm also living on the river. I think sometimes
- during the summer they put the buoys up to give
- 12 notice for this hearing and I think there were two
- of them, one north, but the fact of the matter is
- 14 most of the boats that come by, the majority are
- small boats and they are on the Queen Anne's County
- 16 side and so they never saw this notice and because
- 17 this notice is months later in the fall here
- they're not able to be here to speak their mind.
- 19 This is just my opinion.
- 20 Every boater is responsible for their
- 21 boat and the damage they do. If they run into

- somebody, they're responsible. They're also
- 2 responsible for their wake, every boater. We feel
- 3 there needs to be enforcement for the people to be
- 4 responsible for their wake and if they do any
- 5 damage, I think that's universal. Now, the country
- 6 club does not have a fuel dock, the country club
- 7 does not have a seawall to protect it. Yes,
- 8 they're impacted by these boats that come by, we're
- 9 impacted because we see the wake. We don't think
- 10 it's fair to have a speed restriction for a small
- 11 boat. Now they were talking about the speed that
- 12 some of the sailboats and what speed should we set
- this at, well, some of the sailboats can do 10
- 14 knots, a catamaran can do 20 knots, personal
- 15 watercraft can do 40 knots, but there is no wake.
- 16 So to indiscriminately set a speed on the origin of
- 17 wake I don't think is fair.
- One of the other points, if the idea is
- 19 that they're going to split this east-west, the
- 20 Kent County side would be enforced and the Queen
- 21 Anne's County side -- okay, how do you draw a line?

- 1 There's no marker, but there is a speed restriction 2 south at Rolph's Wharf and there is a fuel dock 3 Anybody that's gotten fuel knows that you there. 4 don't want to be tossed around when you're trying 5 to put fuel in, but again, if they're going to 6 allow the split in the speed on either side of the 7 river are they also going to do that with Rolph's? 8 There was some aggressive speed enforcement at 9 Rolph's for boats that are way outside of the 10 channel that do not create a wake and they were 11 nailing everybody and it was a little bit abusive 12 in my opinion what they had to do. I think they 13 just need to enforce the responsibility of every 14 boat owner to be careful of their own wake.
- 17 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Any

nail some of these people.

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- 18 questions from the committee? Thank you again,
- 19 sir, appreciate it. Anybody wish to speak for or

out there on a Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon and

- 20 against, anybody wish to speak on either of those
- 21 issues? Okay, we're moving along. Thank you for

1 Each of you are welcome to stay for the 2 whole process if you'd like to and then we're going 3 do Miles River next and thank you for coming. Does anybody request that they might 5 like a break, anybody that would like to go to the 6 restroom or take a five-minute break, or you want 7 to continue on? 8 (Brief recess.) 9 MR. MARSH: Okay. We're going to get 10 underway with Miles River. 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Please come to order. 12 MR. MARSH: We have a request that we 13 wait until our presentation for the officer, so if 14 you'd hang around we pretty appreciate that. 15 think some of the committee felt like maybe the 16 officer at the last would be better so we can have 17 some questions for you, sir, so we're going to wait 18 for the officer. Mike, you're on, sir. 19 MR. GRANT: The request is, as you see, 20 they'd like six knots --21 MR. MARSH: Come to order, please.

1 MR. GRANT: They'd like six knots for 2 all vessels 24 feet in length Friday through 3 Sundays and holidays during the boating season. 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Just a -- in the back 5 there, would you please take your conversation 6 outside? We're going to come to order and 7 continue. Go ahead now. 8 MR. GRANT: There's PowerPoint involved 9 in this, so I'm going to take this off the screen 10 and go to the PowerPoint. 11 MR. MARSH: Fine. Do we have a 12 spokesman? Would you state your name, sir and 13 print it? 14 MR. BROWN: Good morning. I'm Omer 15 Brown. 16 MR. MARSH: Use the mic, please. 17 MR. BROWN: I'm a resident of St. 18 Michaels, a powerboater. I've been asked by John 19 Gargalli, who was the organizer of the petition and 20 request, to be the spokesman this morning and 21 outline the concerns of the various petitioners.

- First, I'd like to say something about
 the role of this committee and the role of DNR.
- 3 We've heard this morning that the department does
- 4 not have any role in safety and that the Boating
- 5 Act was not enacted for safety reasons. Both of
- 6 those statements are absurd. The department
- 7 obviously has a role in safety.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Sir, that's incorrect,
- 9 what you just said. Very often whenever we do
- 10 anything with the waterways we do take into
- 11 consideration safety, and that is done. However,
- 12 that's not our primary function. Our primary
- 13 function is making the waterways available for all
- 14 citizens.
- MR. BROWN: But Mr. Chairman, it's to do
- 16 it on a safe basis, the statute is clear on that;
- otherwise, there would be no need for the five DNR
- 18 police officers who are here this morning if the
- department didn't have a safety role.
- MR. MARSH: Go ahead and make your
- 21 presentation.

1 MR. BROWN: Let's have the next slide, 2 please. We have a very diverse group of 3 petitioners. 105 Talbot County area, bay area 4 counties petitioners have requested the very 5 limited descriptions that we are proposing today. 6 This includes both power and sailboaters, regatta 7 organizers, commercial boat operators, boatyard 8 owners, state of Maryland approved Junior Sail Camp 9 organizers, kayakers, adjacent shoreline owners and 10 All of the petitioners want to fishermen. 11 encourage the widespread public use and enjoyment 12 of open waterway and recreation on the Miles River 13 but consistent with the duty of DNR and, we submit, 14 this committee to promote safety of life and 15 property on Maryland waters. 16 We've given you paper copies of the 17 I won't repeat the boundaries, Mr. Grant 18 has put up a chart that shows that and the next 19 slide shows it as well. Next slide, please. 20 Let me give you a quick summary of the 21 very limited request that petitioners are making.

- 1 First, it would apply only from April 15th to
- October 15th, that is during the boating season; it
- 3 would apply only on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and
- 4 government holidays, or less than 23 percent of the
- 5 year; it would apply only to boats 24 feet or
- 6 greater in length.
- 7 The marked channel through the zone from
- 8 red number 14 to red 21 is only one nautical mile
- 9 whereas the Miles River itself is 12 square miles
- and 12.9 miles in length. The county has 469
- 11 square miles, of which 206 miles are water. At the
- 12 present time there are only four DNR restricted
- zones in the county. The zone that we are
- 14 proposing is only 0.6 square miles or only about 5
- 15 percent of the Miles River. The reduced speed
- 16 would have minor impact on the time to cross the
- 17 zone. At six knots the travel time would be about
- ten minutes and five seconds, at 15 knots it would
- 19 be four minutes and two seconds, so we're only
- 20 talking about an increase of six minutes to cross
- 21 the zone.

1	The request has been limited to a bare
2	minimum to enhance safety in the busy zone and to
3	help preserve eroding shoreline and the depth of
4	the St. Michaels harbor that eventually would be
5	too shallow for many of the transient boats that
6	now use it. Next slide, please.
7	The six-knot seasonal zone would
8	increase safety in the congested waterway, both
9	transient, power and sailboaters. It would be
10	safer for youth and adult sailing lessons that are
11	conducted in the zone by the Chesapeake Bay
12	Maritime Museum, The Inn at Perry Cabin and the
13	Miles River Yacht Club, and you'll be hearing after
14	me from museum President Shook and Commodore-elect
15	Gardner of the yacht club, who will expand upon
16	those points. It also would be safer for the
17	traditional annual Memorial Day weekend Annapolis
18	to Miles River sailboat race and safer for the four
19	historic log canoe regattas held in June, the log
20	canoe Governor's Cup regatta in July and two
21	weekends of log canoe races in September. Log

1 canoes have been racing in these water for over a 2 hundred years. 3 You have here a picture of the junior 4 sailing in the zone. You can see how congested it 5 Next slide, please. Here's a picture of the 6 historic log canoe race in the zone. Next slide. 7 Another picture of log canoes tacking and you can 8 see the boards on the side that illustrate how 9 vulnerable these historic boats are to wakes. They're also in the zone. Stars racing, so there 10 11 are a number of races in the zone during the year. 12 Next slide, please. The request would 13 also make it safer for the Midshore Conservancy 14 Triathlon in June, safer for the junior regattas in 15 August, safer for the 20 races held most Saturdays 16 and Sundays during the season, safer for the 17 numerous recreational kayakers in the zone, and 18 safer for the many power and sailboats that anchor 19 along the Miles River adjacent to the zone.

would be safer for educational and sightseeing

cruises by cat sailboat Salena, whose Captain

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- 1 Clarke is here this morning and will speak to her
- 2 concerns, safer for the skipjack H.M. Krentz, whose
- 3 Captain Farley will be back here this morning to
- 4 speak to his concerns, and for the Mr. Jim and
- 5 other Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum historic boats
- 6 that President Shook will speak to.
- 7 This year there were 37 days of racing
- 8 from May to October with at least 56 race starts in
- 9 the zone. Next slide. No, I'm sorry. Heavy wakes
- 10 are a major factor in severe shoreline erosion.
- 11 Having the zone will contribute to conserving about
- 12 2500 feet of natural shoreline of the Miles Point
- 13 green plus wetlands off the Perry Cabin townhouses.
- 14 The zone will help protect the depth of the St.
- 15 Michaels harbor, which has gotten shallower over
- 16 the years. Members of Miles River Yacht Club are
- 17 already asked by the club's waterfront regulations
- 18 to observe a six-mile-an-hour maximum speed between
- 19 the club and red marker 2, so members of the yacht
- 20 club are already observing this restriction.
- 21 There also is a petition that indicates

- that wakes have caused serious wear on nearby
 pilings, dock lines and dock cleats. The next two
- 3 slides are pictures of the shoreline erosion along
- 4 the zone and you can see how vulnerable this
- 5 property is in this slide and the second slide.
- 6 Next slide, please. There is now a risk
- of serious accidents in the zone and we've given
- 8 you one example of a 2008 incident that was
- 9 reported in a state of Maryland watercraft accident
- 10 report. In this case the mast of a historic 1901
- 11 log canoe Island Lark with a crew of 12 was split
- during the annual Governor's Cup race in heavy
- 13 traffic. This was caused by the wake of a 38.7-
- 14 foot sportfish motorboat traveling at a speed of 20
- 15 knots through the middle of the race with the
- 16 operator, as the report indicates, waving his
- 17 middle finger in the direction of those attempting
- 18 to get The Amaretto to slow down. There was
- 19 property damage of about \$2500 in this case, but
- 20 fortunately no personal injuries. And this
- 21 incident I believe illustrates the problem that we

1 have in the zone and the lack of courtesy that 2 often is encountered as large motorboats come 3 through races and otherwise. 4 In conclusion, the Boat Act was enacted 5 in 1960 to ensure that vessels on our waterways are 6 operated safely. I think that's clear from the 7 language of the act itself and the act recognizing 8 that safety always plays a role in maximizing the 9 enjoyment of Maryland's waters. None of us can 10 leave here today and go onto Route 50 and drive at 11 any speed we like. There are speed limits because 12 those have been adopted for safety and we submit 13 that there ought to be a similar limit in these 14 waters for safety reasons. DNR's website says with 15 the ever-increasing number of boaters in our waters 16 it's the responsibility of us all to work together 17 to ensure our waters are clean and, I emphasize, 18 safe. 19 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir, appreciate 20 that. 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

1 MR. MARSH: Mick, question. 2 MR. BLACKISTONE: I have do have a 3 question, because I know it's a very active river 4 with all kinds of vessels and all kinds of 5 recreation and racing, and I appreciate the one 6 accident illustration you gave. What I'm -- my big 7 concern is how many accidents, how many personal 8 injuries, boat fatalities, injuries involve the 9 racers, either the log canoe, the schools, all the 10 commercial guys that are traveling? 11 MR. BROWN: I don't know of any 12 fatalities yet, but it's an accident waiting to 13 happen and when you're out on those waters and see 14 what happens during races and with large wakes it 15 is only an accident waiting to happen, so I don't 16 think the committee should, should wait for 17 somebody to be killed before taking a reasonable 18 action to promote safety. 19 MR. BLACKISTONE: Do you buoy off your 20 courses for the kids, sailing club? 21 Someone else will answer MR. BROWN:

- that question, I don't know the specifics.

 THE CHAIRMAN: I have one question. You
 mentioned that the Perry Cabin Inn was affected by
- 4 boats coming into St. Michaels, correct?
- 5 MR. BROWN: No, it's the sailing
- 6 program, not the inn itself. The inn is within the
- 7 current restricted zone.
- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, that was the point
- 9 I was going to bring up, so.
- MR. BROWN: No, their dock and shoreline
- is within the current speed limit of the St.
- 12 Michaels harbor.
- MR. SHELLER: This yellow outline is
- 14 your request?
- MR. BROWN: That's right.
- MR. SHELLER: You're asking to shut the
- 17 entire river down? The navigable portion of this
- 18 river within those buoys is --
- MR. BROWN: No, we're not asking that it
- 20 be shut down.
- MR. SHELLER: You have a green marker on

1 the right there. 2 MR. BROWN: We're asking that it be 3 restricted for speed and safety for boats over 24 4 feet on weekends during boating season. That's not 5 shutting the river down, that's creating a safe 6 area for the people who've been using these waters 7 like the log canoes for over a hundred years. 8 MR. SHELLER: You're asking that the 9 entire federally navigable river be restricted 10 during certain portions of the year, because it's 11 between the navigation markers of the U.S. Coast 12 Guard for the entire river: is that not true? 13 MR. BROWN: Yes, we're asking for those 14 restrictions, just like there are restrictions in 15 other channels. 16 MR. SHELLER: How wide is that channel? 17 MR. BROWN: It's very narrow. 18 MR. SHELLER: Any commercial traffic? 19 MR. BROWN: Yes, some commercial 20 traffic, but the commercial traffic has not been a 21 problem, and the speed limit would not be an undue

1 burden on commercial boats. 2 MR. KLING: I have three questions. 3 canoes are in excess of 24 feet, log canoes travel 4 in excess of six knots if there's enough wind. 5 do you reconcile wanting to have a log canoe race 6 and then safety? 7 MR. BROWN: We're concerned about the 8 wakes and not the speed. 9 MR. KLING: Be that as it may, we impose 10 speed limits, we don't control wake, except in 11 environmentally sensitive areas, so --12 MR. BROWN: This is a sensitive area. 13 MR. KLING: Not by our standards. Well, 14 if we implement this proposal, log canoes can't 15 race, how do you reconcile that with the concerns? 16 MR. BROWN: What we're concerned about 17 is the wakes, not the speed. 18 MR. KLING: Let me try this again. 19 six-knot limit would prohibit the log canoes from 20 racing as they've been racing for a long time. 21 MR. BROWN: This committee can modify

- 1 that request to make that exception to allow racing
- 2 to occur. That's not what we're asking.
- 3 MR. KLING: Second question, do you have
- 4 any scientific evidence, anything other than
- 5 speculation that speed in this area has any effect
- on the depth of St. Michaels harbor?
- 7 MR. BROWN: Something is affecting the
- 8 depth of St. Michaels harbor because it's getting
- 9 more shallow.
- 10 MR. KLING: I understand that and --
- 11 MR. BROWN: There's significant erosion
- 12 so what's filling the harbor has to come from
- 13 somewhere.
- MR. KLING: The entire bay will be
- filled in in 20,000 years if there's no human
- 16 activity in it, so. Final question. I would be
- safer if I wore body armor and a helmet, the bay
- 18 would be safer if we had a six-knot limit
- 19 everywhere. Other than one incident three years
- 20 ago and I would describe very vague generalized
- 21 concerns about the sky is falling, is there any

1 evidence of a safety problem? 2 MR. BROWN: Yes, there is. 3 MR. KLING: What is it? Well, you will hear from MR. WAGNER: 5 other boaters who have had close encounters during 6 the boating season and have that concern. That's 7 like saying that we shouldn't have a speed 8 restriction out here on Route 50 because there 9 hadn't been an accident right at this intersection. 10 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Anybody 11 else got a question? 12 Yeah, I have a question. THE CHAIRMAN: I have one more question for you, sir. When you're 13 14 going in St. Michaels you notice there are the red 15 and green markers, large boats will slow down right 16 before they get there and from there it's a six-17 knot, correct? 18 MR. BROWN: Yes, yes. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know if you want 20 to move the, that groove further out so they do not 21 slow down just at that point, because I've been in

- and out of St. Michaels 30 or 40 times and I know
- 2 that happens all the time. They slow down right at
- 3 that point and as soon as when they are going out,
- 4 as soon as they get to that marker they immediately
- 5 go right up to plane.
- 6 MR. BROWN: That's exactly the problem,
- 7 I mean that's why we want the restrictions in the
- 8 broader area that's used for, for racing and
- 9 kayaking and other recreational activities and has
- 10 been for over a hundred years with the log canoes.
- 11 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Any other
- 12 questions from any of the committee members? Thank
- 13 you, sir. We're taking other people that would
- 14 like to speak for, but I would remind you, if you
- would please, if you have anything else to add to
- 16 that, we certainly want everybody to have a chance
- 17 to speak, but if you would just limit yourself to
- 18 add something new and fresh to that we would be
- delighted for you to speak. We know you came here
- to do so, so we want to make sure that we hear
- 21 everyone. Next speaker for. No. Mike.

1 We MR. GRANT: I have one comment. 2 placed our notice buoy approximately here and when 3 we were on some observations trips we sat right 4 about in here and ironically any vessels that were 5 coming downriver took this mark and I guess they 6 assumed it was a speed buoy because they dropped 7 dead in the water right there and then puttered in 8 the rest of the way. Now, not everyone, but quite 9 a few of them did. 10 MR. MARSH: Thank you, Mike. Anybody 11 else speaking for? And please limit to, you know, 12 one or two minutes and add something fresh and new 13 if you would, please. Sir, state your name and 14 print it. Hold the mic close to you so we can hear 15 you. 16 MR. SHOOK: My name is Langley Shook, 17 I'm the president of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime 18 Museum in St. Michaels. I'm speaking this morning 19 in favor of the request for this limited 20 restriction. We have a living shoreline recently

installed that is constantly impacted by the

21

- erosion caused by boat wakes. But that's not the principal thing that concerns me. We also have a rich and long-standing and large youth sailing
- 4 program that trains novices, first-time sailers in
- 5 sailing, and their area for practice and learning
- 6 as novices is in the triangular region that's been
- 7 marked off. And to pick up on Mr. Brown's comment,
- 8 I don't think it requires much imagination to
- 9 understand the safety threats posed by large
- 10 vessels occasionally and imprudently throwing a
- 11 wake. They shouldn't, they know better, but they
- do it and there should be a law against it. There
- 13 should be a restriction, a limited restriction
- 14 prohibiting it.
- 15 Actually, a major concern of the
- 16 maritime museum is our floating fleet of historic
- 17 Chesapeake Bay vessels. We have the largest
- 18 collection of Chesapeake Bay vessels in the world.
- 19 In any given time we may have 10 or 12 of them in
- 20 the water. Our bulkhead, our slips, our piers on
- 21 Navy Point are unprotected, they're exposed to the

- boat wakes. We can't have outboard pilings because
 that would restrict navigation. The only way to
- 3 tie up these vessels like Ed Farley's H.M. Krentz.
- 4 a historic skipjack, is to fend them off the
- 5 bulkhead. It's very, very difficult to place
- 6 fenders on the side of a vessel as we all know to
- 7 protect it from crashing against the pilings. And
- 8 that difficulty is made even more challenging when
- 9 you have boat wakes that are rocking these vessels
- 10 that are tied up alongside the bulkhead into the
- 11 pilings. So a speed limit of six knots or less
- 12 unquestionably would address that concern.
- The protection of these vessels is
- 14 important to our heritage, our traditions, our
- 15 culture. The Edna Lockwood is 130 years old and
- 16 she sits right in the slip below our lighthouse,
- 17 and I see her rock back and forth as the big boats
- 18 go by and throw out their wake. They shouldn't,
- 19 they know better, but they do it. They do it. And
- there should be a speed limit anticipating the
- 21 entry into the harbor. Thank you very much.

1 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. A question 2 for you -- hold on just a minute. John. 3 MR. BLACKISTONE: Langley, how far is it 4 from your pier, how far does the six-knot zone 5 currently exist out from your point, a hundred 6 yards, five hundred yards? 7 MR. SHOOK: I'm not certain, Mick, but 8 my point is even approaching the harbor too often 9 too many boats are going well over six knots. 10 right there where the words St. Michaels are 11 written, that is Navy Point, yes, just right in 12 there, those are our exposed slips with no outboard 13 pilings. That's the end of Navy Point. And then 14 just below there there's our lighthouse and there's 15 the 1889 Edna Lockwood. 16 MR. BLACKISTONE: I understand that, but 17 how far out to the six knot? 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Right there at the red 19 marker. 20 MR. BLACKISTONE: How many yards? 21 MR. SHOOK: I don't know exactly.

1 tell you though, Mick, that the wake thrown by 2 vessels that are coming in honoring the mark affect, sometimes severely affect the vessels tied 3 up on Navy Point and I think Captain Ed Farley can 5 address that better than I because his skipjack 6 Krentz has one of our sweetest slips. MR. BLACKISTONE: Okay. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: My question --9 MR. MARSH: John has one down here. 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead. 11 MR. KLOOSTRA: The chart shows it's 12 about 800 feet from the boat that he's talking 13 about to the green and then I don't know if the 14 green is the demarcation to slow down. 15 MR. GRANT: Red, green. 16 MR. KLOOSTRA: The green is closer to 17 Navy Point than the red. 18 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, yeah. 19 MR. GRANT: Okay. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: My question is if you 21 move the six-knot restriction from where it is now

1 further out into the Miles River, say right there, 2 about there, then boats would have to slow down 3 there and the wake that they set up, of course when 4 you decelerate it would not, it would not impact at 5 all in there; is that correct? 6 MR. SHOOK: I'm not a hydrogeologist, I 7 can't give an expert opinion. Common sense would 8 say to me that that would very significantly help 9 eliminate our problem, but it wouldn't address the 10 issues of shoreline erosion all along the river and 11 exposed high bank that in places is cut taller than 12 I am for yards, indeed I think scores, hundreds of 13 yards, and I can tell you from walking out there, 14 bird watching out there, fishing off there, at the 15 moment unquestionably in my mind the biggest 16 contributor to that shoreline erosion and thus 17 inducing suspended solvents -- excuse me, suspended 18 sediments, many of which I think unfortunately silt 19 in our slips and the harbor, is boat wake. I don't 20 believe that it's storm, storm surge action. 21 MR. MARSH: Any other questions?

1 questions? Thank you, sir. We appreciate that. 2 MR. SHOOK: Thank you. 3 MR. MARSH: Anyone else that would like 4 to speak for? State your name, please, and print 5 your name. There again, I remind you to keep it 6 down to about two or three minutes, we're trying to 7 get everybody in if we can. Thank you very much. 8 MR. STUMPH: Once I've gotten a 9 microphone. 10 MR. MARSH: I know. State your name, 11 sir, and sign in, we'll be happy to hear from you. 12 MR. STUMPH: Hello. Wow. Okav. Good 13 afternoon, yes, good afternoon, and thank you for 14 hearing our plea. My name is John Stumph and I'm 15 for this proposal. My credentials are and I'm 16 representing actually a number of different 17 constituents in here, I have a master license and I 18 drive Mr. Jim for the Maritime Museum, I've been a 19 safety boat driver for the log canoes and the sail 20 committee for about ten years and also I'm 21 co-director of the junior sailing program, which is

- 1 a certified Maryland sailing camp. I've been
- 2 working with that program for about ten years. I
- 3 spent a little bit of a time on the river, not as
- 4 much as Mr. Dwyer over here or Captain Ed, but I
- 5 have been on the river a bit.
- A couple of questions came up, one was
- 7 have accidents happened, and I'm particularly
- 8 talking about the log canoes now. Yes, we have had
- 9 one, but okay, we have had a number of instances
- 10 where big powerboat wakes have caused log canoes to
- 11 go over. Now, the log canoes are required to have
- 12 a safety boat, that safety boat is required to have
- 13 all the safety equipment that it needs, but
- 14 nonetheless, if any of you have seen a log canoe go
- over, it can be dangerous. These people know what
- 16 they're doing, and we have had very few accidents,
- 17 but yes, the potential is there because these wakes
- 18 will flip over log canoes.
- 19 Point two, coming down there you see the
- 20 red-green, right up there, right up there, that is
- 21 a choke point, okay, there is a very narrow gap

- 1 between those two buoys and we have seen large
- 2 powerboats come barreling through there and they
- 3 really, they round, I think it's number 2 there
- 4 outside of the entrance buoy and then just plow
- 5 right into St. Michaels. On a Saturday afternoon
- 6 as they're leaving some of them might be sober, I'm
- 7 not entirely sure, but that's a tremendous choke
- 8 point and we don't have a lot of space to run the
- 9 log canoes other than up and down that river there.
- 10 Okay? It is dangerous.
- Now, in my capacity as co-director of
- 12 the junior sail program, somebody asked do we buoy?
- 13 Well, let me tell a little bit about the junior
- 14 sailboating. We have as many as 85 kids out there
- in small boats. If you don't know what an Opti
- 16 Pram is, I could not fit in one. Actually I can
- get in one, but it would be very, very funny
- watching me get out of it. Okay? They're very
- small boats, they are very small kids, they're very
- 20 susceptible to wakes. Now, yes, we do put buoys
- 21 out. Each of the racing areas around there is

- 1 marked up, we send different fleets to different
- 2 corners, but these kids are inexperienced, as
- 3 Langley said with his sailing program, they're
- 4 inexperienced, there are a lot of them and
- 5 typically boats coming down there just ignore them
- 6 and plow right through. This is a dangerous
- 7 situation.
- Now, one of the things, if anybody would
- 9 like to come out with me on a log canoe safety
- 10 boat, that's not a problem, we set up clearances
- 11 around there, the big boats ignore them and they
- 12 plow right through and they give us a one-finger
- 13 salute. If any of you have listened to Channel 16
- 14 you can hear our pleas to slow down on log canoe
- 15 race weekends. Okay? Some of them do, some of
- 16 them do not.
- 17 The other area that is a major concern,
- if a log canoe goes over, okay, it has a very low
- 19 profile in the water, okay, and that is
- 20 particularly dangerous if a powerboat comes plowing
- down there at 25 or 30 knots. Thank you.

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1
                MR. MARSH:
                            Thank you, sir.
2
     questions from the committee? Amy.
 3
                MS. CRAIG: When does the sailing
 4
    program operate?
5
                MR. STUMPH: June 18th until August 3rd
6
    this year. We have regattas into the middle of
7
    August though.
8
                MS. CRAIG: What days of the week, every
9
    day?
10
                MR. STUMPH: Monday through Friday.
11
                MS. CRAIG: What time of day?
12
                MR. STUMPH: 9 to 4.
13
                MS. CRAIG: Have you ever asked for a
14
    DNR presence during the races or regatta?
15
                MR. STUMPH: We did a number of years
16
    ago and the answer was silence. We sort of gave up
17
               We have requested both DNR and Coast
    on that.
18
    Guard presence a number of years, we just gave up
19
    on that.
20
                MS. ALLISON: Having raced on J.D. and
21
    Blossom primarily --
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1
                MR. STUMPH:
                             You stayed up?
2
                MS. ALLISON: Well, depends. J.D., yes;
    Blossom, seldom, but I run chase for both of those
 3
 4
            Both of those boats exceed six knots by a
5
    considerable amount, sometimes as much as double,
6
    and the chase exceeds where they go over six knots,
7
    so you're basically going to outlaw log canoe
8
     racing with this request.
9
                MR. STUMPH: I'm not going to handle
10
    that, I'm going to duck that issue because, first
11
    of all, it is a -- a lot of them don't go over six
12
           How many of you have sailed on the Miles
13
    River in the summertime and gone over six knots?
14
    Now, the safety boat issue is another issue.
15
    consistently drive my boat at more than six knots.
16
     If a log canoe goes over, a safety boat has to get
17
    to that log canoe and make sure that everybody is
18
    okay, and I assure you folks if you put that rule
19
     in, I will still drive over six knots to make sure
20
    that the people in the log canoe are safe.
21
                MR. MARSH:
                            Thank you.
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1 MR. BLACKISTONE: I have a question, 2 maybe to Mike, from St. Michaels to the farthest 3 buoy? MR. GRANT: Here to here? 5 MR. BLACKISTONE: Yeah. How far is 6 that? 7 MR. GRANT: 1.36 nautical miles. 8 MR. BLACKISTONE: Is that right? The 9 first guy. 10 A PARTICIPANT: I don't know if that's 11 the distance following all the buoys, but they do 12 come through that choke point and head for here. 13 MR. GRANT: Straight line from here to 14 here, that's it, but within a few, a few yards, 15 ballpark, I take your word for it. 16 MR. MARSH: Any other questions? 17 thank you very much, sir. Anybody else for that 18 would like to speak? And please keep it to a 19 couple of minutes. Some fresh new thoughts if you 20 would, please. State your name, sir, and sign in. 21 My name is Edward Farley, CAPT. FARLEY:

- I am the owner and operator of the skipjack H.M.
- 2 Krentz, which is Coast Guard certified to carry up
- 3 to 32 passengers and we operate out of St.
- 4 Michaels, Maryland.
- 5 MR. MARSH: Use the mic, sir.
- 6 CAPT. FARLEY: I apologize, I forget.
- 7 Okay. My concern is for the safety of my
- 8 passengers and the safely of my vessel. I have had
- 9 damage done to the railings of my vessel tied up in
- 10 the bulkhead. Let's see if I can -- right here at
- 11 Navy Point. I have broadsided the wakes that come
- 12 into the dock. When they reconstruct that bulkhead
- 13 we may get some, what I call spring pilings, which
- 14 are separate from the bulkhead so that you're not
- 15 pounding hard against the bulkhead, but by and
- large if a vessel slows down even out at the
- 17 turning of the day marker out here, the lighted
- 18 marker out here, if they've been pulling a big wake
- 19 that wake will beat them into the harbor. Well,
- 20 where did that come from? It's that boat out
- 21 there. The wake will travel through the water at

1 its speed even after the boat slows down. And we 2 have experienced that. 3 You asked if there had been accidents. 4 I don't know about in recent times, I recall back 5 in the '70s a boat that came into the harbor and 6 cracked up and damaged the hulls of several 7 fiberglass boats owned by the Annapolis Sailing 8 School and it -- I was at the top of my mast oiling 9 the mast and nearly fell out of the bosun's chair 10 and when the marine police approached that captain 11 he said my insurance company will take care of it. 12 That's a long time ago and maybe not appropriate, 13 but that did happen. 14 I operate a great deal right in this 15 area here off of Ashcraft Point or what is now 16 called Miles Point because right here is an oyster 17 bar and we have a scientific collection program to 18 be able to take a sample and demonstrate oyster 19 dredging under sail, and what we take out of the 20 water we put back where we caught them. When boats 21 come up the river through Deep Water Point and then

- 1 around the corner, you get a wake this way and you 2 get a wake this way at the same time. And I've had 3 people on my boat fall down, never to the point of 4 needing even first aid at this time, but if 5 somebody breaks a leg or a hip, they're going to 6 sue me, and I don't want that to happen. I don't 7 want the lawsuit, I don't want them to get hurt. 8 That's a safety issue. 9 I have had people sitting on my deck 10 boxes and had a wake go over their shoulders one 11 It was a young crowd, they laughed about it, 12 but it wasn't really funny and there was nothing I 13 could do to maneuver my boat because I was getting 14 a wake in both directions. So I maneuvered to 15 avoid one wake and the wake hit me from the other 16 side and literally hit the side of the boat, and 17 when it does that it surges up and over it, 18 literally green water over the shoulders of my 19 passengers.
- 21 where I will not be able to exceed six knots, those

If I'm on a slow day with almost no wind

20

1 boat wakes shake the boat in a manner that could 2 snap the spar because it's not supported by the 3 tension of the sails when there's an extra amount 4 of wind, so I'm concerned about the safety of my 5 equipment, and if a mast or a boom breaks one of my 6 passengers could be injured. So none of that has 7 happened yet, but I have had some close calls with 8 it. 9 I have also had powerboats take my 10 right-of-way and cut right across close at hand and 11 signal was rude hand signals along the way. 12 never had an occasion where I felt I should call 13 the Coast Guard or the marine police, but if that's 14 what it takes to document the problems, I'll call 15 them every day that it happens. 16 MR. MARSH: Thank you, Captain. 17 there anything, any questions for him? Thank you 18 very much, appreciate your time. 19 CAPT. FARLEY: Thank you.

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speak for? And if you, please, two to three

MR. MARSH: Anybody else would like to

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- 1 minutes and try not to be redundant. We do
- 2 understand as outlined by the first presenter,
- 3 thank you. Sign in and state your name.
- 4 MR. ENGELSKIRCHEN: My name is Tod
- 5 Engelskirchen, I have a boat at the Miles River
- 6 Yacht Club, before that it was at Higgins Yacht
- 7 Yard in St. Michaels. You I guess need to have
- 8 some evidence that people have had issues. No one
- 9 that I know of has ever cited anyone for coming too
- 10 close with a major powerboat to someone else in a
- 11 smaller boat. My boat's 36 feet, it's an ocean-
- 12 going boat, you know, it's fully capable of
- 13 handling just about anything, but I take my sails
- 14 down off Long Haul Creek, take my sail down before
- 15 I head in generally. I have had boats come within
- 16 50 feet of me at full bore when I'm up in the
- doghouse and have had to hold on for dear life.
- 18 There's definitely an issue. If you think you
- 19 haven't had complaints, I can guarantee we can
- 20 generate some complaints for you. I have called on
- 21 Channel 16 and if the DNR doesn't listen to Channel

1 16, what can I say? 2 I guess one piece of information I'd 3 like to know from you all is have you asked the DNR 4 how many times people have been cited? 5 has ever been cited, why not? I've talked to the 6 people at the DNR asking them do you cite people 7 for reckless boating in our area, and I got kind of 8 That's all I have to say. a blank look. 9 Any MR. MARSH: Thank you very much. 10 Thank you, sir. Anybody else to speak questions? 11 Please state your name, sir. 12 MR. KELLY: My name is Dick Kelly, I'm 13 I have had a boat in this area for the request. 14 for over 20 years, mostly small boats, I'll speak 15 to the small boat issue. 16 THE REPORTER: Sir, would you print your 17 name? 18 MR. MARSH: State your name and sign in. 19 MR. KELLY: Yeah, Dick Kelly, and I'm 20 one of the instructors at the yacht club for the 21 adult sail program. With that program we do not

1 have a chase boat or a safety boat, so being 2 conscious of that, what I do is I do all my, all 3 the instruction outside of the zone, but I have a 4 period of leaving the yacht club I have to go 5 through the zone to get to the upper Miles, and 6 it's the trip back and forth that's the challenge. 7 And I've raced Penguins in the upper Miles, same 8 situation, during the race we're fine, it's the 9 trip back to the yacht club, particularly on 10 Saturdays. 11 So the last thing I'll say is on, with 12 my sailing instruction it's a weekday, it's 13 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. I wait until 14 the last session when I have my students at a point 15 of reasonable proficiency, I don't take them out if 16 there's wind more than 12 knots because that 17 generally will generate two-foot seas, but since 18 they have not experienced anything over two-foot 19 seas, what I waited for is the last session and 20 it's the trip back, out of the zone back through

the zone that gives them the firsthand experience

21

- of three-, four- and sometimes five-foot seas just on the trip back, particularly if I take them up
- 3 anywhere near that choke point. And I'll just,
- 4 I'll just cite this, most of these are sailors who
- 5 are at the point of being proficient, being subject
- 6 to that is certainly a challenge and I think
- 7 they're worthy of consideration of some reduction
- 8 in the speed particularly in that zone area. Thank
- 9 you.
- 10 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Any
- 11 questions? Thank you, sir. Anybody else speaking
- 12 for? Please state your name and sign, thank you.
- 13 CAPT. CLARKE: My name is Captain Iris
- 14 Clarke, I operate the Selina II in St. Michaels
- 15 harbor. She's a historic yacht, she was built in
- 16 1926, she's got about, maybe just about five feet
- of freeboard from the base of the stem up to the
- 18 deck. This summer a boat went by me just outside
- of number 4, right here where this is seen, I had a
- 20 boat go by me that threw a huge, huge wake. I
- 21 don't know how big the wake was, I don't know how

1 fast the boat was going. I do know that I put 2 myself perpendicular right into that wake. 3 had taken it side to I have no idea what the damage 4 would have been, but going right into it put water 5 over my bow. That's completely outrageous. That's 6 all I have to say. We need this, we need this big 7 time. 8 MR. MARSH: Thank you, ma'am, captain, 9 thank you. Any questions? Thank you. Now, 10 hearing no more for the proposal, is there --11 another one. Oh, several more, okay for, but 12 please, to about a minute. If it's any new 13 information you would like to -- thank you. 14 MR. GARDNER: Good afternoon, 15 Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is 16 Chuck Gardner, I'm a resident of Tunis Mills, a 17 waterfront property owner on Leeds Creek, and I 18 concur with the comments that preceded me and do 19 support the petition. What I would add is that in 20 2009 as a fisherman and avid boater I was off of 21 Long Haul Creek and a large powerboat, I just heard

1 it behind me, I was not anchored, but I turned just 2 in time to see about a four-foot wake coming out of 3 at a 17-foot boat which I was in. It nearly put me 4 on the shoreline, if I hadn't started the engine 5 quick, turned the bow, and the boat went straight 6 up in the air and almost went backwards. 7 tell you there have been incidents. 8 I would say that as the commodore-elect 9 of Miles River Yacht Club and some of you as past 10 commodores, you know you spend years through fleet 11 captain and rear and other things, and even if 12 you're not a sailor, you do get out on the water 13 much more than in another capacity. I have been a 14 safety boat and a committee boat for Stars at 15 times, I have seen log canoes -- we had one log 16 canoe knocked down right off of day marker I think 17 it would be 4, people in the water, and if the 18 safety boats had not stopped a large sportfisherman 19 from coming down, and he was doing well in excess 20 of 20 knots, those people would have been in 21 trouble. Only heads were in the water, with a log

- canoe that you couldn't see, so I do know of
 incidents and the only way they're reported --
- oftentimes those boats they're gone, by the time
- 4 you've taken care of a problem the boat is gone and
- 5 safety boats tend to stay with the people, not
- 6 chase somebody, some of these inconsiderate. So we
- 7 do have reports like that. I do not know of any
- 8 specific injuries, but there are incidents. So I
- 9 would say that a speed limit or restriction,
- 10 whether it's in that entire triangular area or
- 11 something else, is warranted and it would be very
- 12 helpful; otherwise, it's citizens trying to police
- 13 citizens and that becomes problematic at times.
- 14 Thank you very much.
- MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Any
- 16 questions? Okay. Thank you, sir. Next person
- 17 that would like to speak for? If you would, if you
- 18 have something to add to that, sir. State your
- 19 name, sir, and sign in.
- MR. ROLLOW: Good afternoon, I'm Doug
- 21 Rollow, I live in St. Michaels harbor, I have a

1 sailboat and a powerboat, I'm right back up by the 2 fuel dock. I transit that zone frequently in both 3 the powerboat and sailboat. I can only repeat that 4 as a pin boat, committee boat, safety boat, the 5 observations of the other people that you heard are 6 dead on, but I'd like to speak about this area 7 here. 8 This is a anchorage for our transient 9 boats, which is a constituency that's not here 10 because they're not residents, but I go through 11 that quite frequently on the weekends and I will 12 notice that turning forward particularly there are 13 several dozen on a slow weekend up to close to a 14 hundred on the holiday weekends boats anchored out 15 in that area which we call The Strand, and those 16 boats are severely impacted by those wakes. 17 also the area where I take the sails down when I'm 18 sailing in the river and as Mr. Engelskirchen said 19 about Long Haul Creek I will say about the entrance 20 to St. Michaels by the entrance beacons that I've 21 been rolled around and had to hold on to the mast

- 1 for dear life again when I'm trying to take the
- 2 sails down on my sailboat. So the impact of
- 3 restricting speed in the zone extends not only to
- 4 the zone itself but also to those people who are
- 5 enjoying the waterways proximate to the zone.
- 6 Thank you.
- 7 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Any questions?
- 8 Thank you, sir. Anybody else that would like to
- 9 add something to that? Please state your name and
- 10 print it.
- MR. EVANS: My name is George Evans, I'm
- 12 a property owner right beyond Deep Water Point,
- which is, we have just about 300 feet. I have a
- 14 pier, 75-feet, and a 20-foot Grady White that I
- 15 have on a lift. A few years ago I was working on
- 16 my boat, my neighbor was having riprap put in right
- 17 beside us. He, or the workman started to shout and
- 18 yell at me and I looked up and they were pointing
- 19 and this large yacht came by and the waves that it
- 20 was putting up from the bow and beyond, you know,
- 21 came over, hit my boat, I was on the boat working

- on it on the lift, hit my boat, knocked me off my
- 2 feet. I called DNR and said they just went up into
- 3 the harbor and had a -- it had a Bahama registry,
- 4 with the ensign out of the back and on the stern.
- 5 I was told very kindly, they said, well, if you can
- 6 get the numbers, et cetera. We can't do anything,
- 7 and I said, well, what can I do? And there was as
- 8 a conversation, very polite conversation, very
- 9 nice, well, you can put up a sign, and they offered
- 10 even to come by and offered me a sign, watch your
- 11 wake. And frankly I said, well, who's going to see
- that unless I put up a sign as big as a billboard?
- 13 Nobody going that speed is going to see that thing.
- 14 They said that's all we can do.
- 15 Two days later, the same boat, which had
- 16 stayed in St. Michaels, I saw him come by, only I
- wasn't in the boat this time, do the same thing,
- 18 large yacht. I mean that's the way of it. Now,
- 19 it's not like this is something that just happened
- 20 a couple of years ago. Three weeks ago my fishing
- 21 buddy and I were again working in my boat on the

- 1 lift, and another boat went by going in the other
- direction, not a foreign registry and out pretty
- far, and did the same thing. This is the narrowest
- 4 part of the Miles River I believe, except when you
- 5 get into the upper reaches of it.
- 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Have we got a marker on
- 7 this, where you are?
- 8 MR. EVANS: It's kind of shaky, but I
- 9 can do it.
- MR. GRANT: Here.
- 11 MR. EVANS: That's it, right here, I own
- 12 300 feet just beyond it. Yeah, just beyond it,
- 13 that's right. Now, we put riprap in about eight
- 14 years ago because of the erosion and it was, you
- 15 know, we didn't have any choice. My neighbor that
- 16 is just to the other side coming in, that's it, he
- 17 did the same thing several, a few years later. So
- 18 that shore is pretty well riprapped except he also
- 19 has a wetland and a pond that he shares with the
- 20 next neighbor and that's open, but that, that piece
- 21 is always opening and closing and a lot of it is

1 simply, I wouldn't say storm, but more than storms. 2 We've had storms, we've been through Isabel and 3 certainly Irene and Floyd and a lot of things, but 4 more than that is the constant weekends where 5 relatively large yachts come in and out of there. 6 The largest vessels, commercial vessels, 7 never been a problem, including we have a small 8 cruise ship that comes in and ties up at the 9 You know, that comes by. The channel is museum. 10 there, and as somebody said earlier, it is a choke 11 point and they do hit it and they have to follow 12 That's Deep Water Point, I guess the deepest 13 point of Miles River, it's something like 44 feet 14 there and they come through in that part. 15 a problem. It's very simply a problem. 16 Thank you, sir. MR. MARSH: There is a 17 question for you. 18 MR. BLACKISTONE: Just out of curiosity, 19 how far out of the water does your Grady White sit

MR. EVANS: About four or five feet.

when it's up on the lift?

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1 have it as high as I can get it, I had it put in 2 high because I was concerned. 3 THE CHAIRMAN: My question is that if we 4 were to install the restrictions as outlined there, 5 the boats would then power back at that point and 6 you would then get more consistent wakes because 7 when they slow down a larger wake is going to be 8 developed. Would you agree with that? 9 MR. EVANS: That's possible, that's possible. 10 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. 12 MR. EVANS: That's possible, yes, that's 13 possible. 14 MR. MARSH: Any other questions? 15 MR. EVANS: But they have to come in 16 there, there's no choice for them because that's 17 where the channel is, the channel is on that side 18 of the river. 19 MR. MARSH: Any other questions? 20 Anybody else that would like to speak for to bring 21 up something --

1 MR. EVANS: Going out, you know, they, 2 we would be in good shape. 3 MR. MARSH: Speaking for, anything you 4 want to add? 5 MS. MURRAY: I think so. 6 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Sign in and 7 state your name, ma'am, please. 8 MS. MURRAY: My name is Joan Murray, I'm 9 the new owner of Miles Point, and as owner of that 10 beautiful property I'm asking you to please put in 11 the speed limit. I am in the process of beginning 12 the shoreline construction, very expensive process, 13 but it is my soil and silt that is silting in the 14 harbor and the Maritime Museum. I have been told 15 that by many, many people. I wish it weren't so 16 and I wouldn't have believed it, but I have so many 17 pictures of the wave action from boats coming on my I thought at first it had to be storm 18 shore. 19 action, but I will show you the videos, I'll show 20 you the pictures, it is the wake of the boats that 21 is causing all my soil to go down into the Maritime

- Museum and the harbor. And also when my son was kayaking this summer, he's 6-4 and almost 200
- 3 pounds, he went over, we saw the boat coming and I
- 4 said, yelled to him watch out for the wake, so it
- 5 is the wake that is causing not only problems with
- 6 the boats, but --
- 7 THE CHAIRMAN: Bring the mic up.
- 8 MS. MURRAY: I'm sorry -- with the
- 9 erosion. Like I said, I'd be happy to supply
- 10 pictures to you, but as the new owner of this
- 11 beautiful property I would like to keep this land.
- 12 As a new sailor, I'm terrified of the wake and I
- ask you to put in the new speed limit. Thank you
- 14 very much.
- MR. MARSH: Any questions. Anybody else
- 16 for, anything new to add?
- MR. PATTERSON: My name is Marshall
- 18 Patterson, I'm the skipper of one of the log canoes
- 19 that sail out of the Maritime Museum. I just
- 20 wanted to give you a couple of examples I've had
- 21 where we were actually capsized when sailing in

1 Both were caused by powerboat wakes as 2 they came through that our chase boats did the best 3 they could to try to get people to slow down, 4 but -- is my mic on? I'm sorry. Each time, you 5 know, as the wave approached we did our best to try 6 and get through the waves, but unfortunately 7 capsized the boat and put all nine, ten members of 8 our crew into the water and then we have to derig 9 the boat there in the wake zone as we're trying to, 10 you know, get everything clear, make sure that 11 we're safe. 12 The main thing that happens is as you're 13 coming through those marks it's a bit of a 14 serpentine, boats as they're approaching, people 15 who are unfamiliar with the area are actually a 16 little surprised by the quick turns they're having 17 to make if they're coming at 20 knots, and because 18 there's a lot of traffic and the boats are close to 19 each other they're often surprised by the slower 20 boats that are in the area. So the major problem

as I see is there's a safety problem with the boats

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1 as they're serpentining through those marks at 20 2 knots, plus they tend to be throwing very large 3 wakes that causes troubles for all the other boaters in the area. Thanks very much. 5 MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir. Any 6 questions? That's fine, anybody else to speak for? 7 Yes, sir, anything new and -- if you'll state your 8 name and print your name, that would be great. 9 MR. GARGALLI: Thank you for the 10 opportunity, chairman and committee. My name is 11 John Gargalli, St. Michaels, I'm the initiator of 12 the petition. I will not -- I will only quickly 13 refer to the second choke point, which is red 14 flashing 4, that has been mentioned. We do get 15 counter converging wakes when a right-angled turn 16 is made into or out of the harbor that gives you a 17 magnificent washing machine effect of wakes. 18 it's a good fishing point and you've got to cross 19 the channel during weekends when there are 20 scheduled races. 21 To give you a feel for the number of

1 sailboat regattas in the May to October period, 2 there are 37 events. An event may have more than 3 one race, so 37 events creates at least 56 starts. 4 If the regatta has a minimum of three and you get 5 four or five races in the scoring, that means that 6 you can throw one out and your best four go in. 7 it's not a set figure, but a minimum number would 8 be 56 starts over 37 different days. And you have 9 to cross this, this active channel. The races are 10 on Saturday and Sunday. This does not involve the 11 Wednesday nights sailing program that takes place 12 in the river. 13 And in closing, I don't like to look 14 disparagingly on our law enforcement activities, 15 but this year during any of the races there was no 16 presence of the marine police. In '10 one of the 17 petitioners noted to me that there was evidence of 18 marine police activity. There is a marine police 19 boat stationed in the harbor up past the fuel dock 20 in St. Michaels harbor and I don't, it's not

obvious when it operates, it must operate before

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1 hours and after hours and in other activities, 2 which I understand, but their activity is, does not 3 support the interest of most of the petitioners in this room and I wish that they could be out there. 5 We ran an inaugural Miles River American 6 Red Cross charity event the first weekend in 7 August. We had approval from the Coast Guard and 8 DNR told us if we had their approval we were good 9 to go as far as they were concerned. They were 10 aware of the event, it was a two-day event, three 11 race courses in this area and upriver past the, 12 about where it says Miles River regulatory request. 13 There was no effort by the marine police to just 14 put in a presence. So I wish to thank Chairman 15 Bush, Mike Grant, who has been very helpful in 16 educating us to the process, and to the marine 17 police, we have not heard from them yet. And to 18 the supporters of our petition. Thank you. 19 MR. MARSH: Thank you. We have a 20 question for you here. 21 I have one quick question THE CHAIRMAN:

1 I'd like to go up to the board here. Certainly the 2 position of the, always of the board is not to 3 close off a river, period. Is it possible that if there is a restriction from about here down to this 5 area right here, meaning that area would be opened 6 up, would that probably satisfy, not everyone, but 7 that would take a major concern of ours of closing 8 off the river. I just wanted to bring that out and 9 hear any comment from anyone in regard to this. 10 MR. GARGALLI: May I respond? 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Sure. 12 MR. GRANT: He would like to respond. 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead. 14 MR. GARGALLI: Chairman Bush, the 15 original petition went downriver past red 14 up to 16 can 12 to get better control over that first choke 17 The green flashing one, that's a critical 18 The other critical area is down where you area. 19 were pointing, the red flashing 4, the triangle --20 Okay, they are the two areas that cause the 21 most turbulence and problem. Now, anything that we

1 get more than we have today is a step in the right 2 direction. 3 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Any other 4 questions for the gentleman? Any questions? 5 questions. 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Russ, do you have a 7 question? 8 MR. MARSH: Thank you very much. 9 MR. GARGALLI: Thank you. 10 MR. MARSH: Anybody else that would like 11 to speak? How about those that are opposed to 12 that, is there a spokesman that would like to go 13 first and clear the way for anyone else in 14 hopefully two to three minutes and then if anybody 15 would like to add something to it after you, you 16 Sign in, sir, print your name and state it 17 for us if you would. 18 MR. SASIELA: Can you hear me? 19 I'm not a spokesman, I am a property owner further 20 up the river near the Miles River Bridge and I 21 enjoy -- I have a sailboat at the Miles River Yacht

1 Club and a powerboat on the lift at my house and I 2 find this to be quite a restriction in my boating 3 ability. Let's say if I wanted to leave my house 4 and go up to Kent Island to the yacht club there or 5 the restaurant there, all of a sudden I have to 6 look around, well, where is that imaginary yellow 7 line that you have portrayed there so I don't 8 violate the speed limit? It seems to impose a 9 great burden on boaters to find that and that also 10 to slow down because you have to take your 11 powerboat off plane, you sink down deeper in the 12 water and you use more fuel. 13 You mentioned another six-minute transit 14 time going through that area, that's one of the 15 objections that I have. I, I'm very sort of in 16 tune with boating safety, I teach boating safety, I 17 taught it for the American Red Cross for 15 years 18 when I was up in New York and teach for the Miles 19 River Sailing and Power Squadron now, so I was 20 trying to look -- you asked for something new, 21 well, I think I'll give you something.

1	One of my hobbies that my wife and I
2	have is ballroom dancing and I was president of a
3	dance club in Easton for three years and still
4	enjoy two ballroom dance club activities. And I,
5	there would be nothing better than me to find an
6	empty dance floor and not have it crowded with
7	other dancers when I'm out dancing, and this sort
8	of, I'm sort of making an analogy here, we have
9	those that wish that everything would slow down,
10	they'd have a lot of space and everything would be
11	safe around them. Well, in my training and
12	teaching of boating, we have something we call
13	rules of the road. We learn how to avoid, you
14	know, other boats and deal with, you know,
15	situations on the water, not unlike what I do when
16	I ballroom dance. I don't glide into somebody, you
17	use appropriate speed and I'm aware of that.
18	I'd like to make one comment about the
19	petition's initial claim of, quote, ever-increasing
20	boating activity. In fact, registrations are in a
21	downward decline in Maryland. So that's really a

- falsehood that they're ever increasing and by
- 2 putting this restriction, having people cited as
- 3 they go through this area, I think it's going to
- 4 discourage boaters from continuing to boat.
- 5 They're going to say gee, I'm going to get a ticket
- 6 or something like that, you know. So I just wanted
- 7 to make people aware of that.
- Just hearing the testimony here it
- 9 sounds like there's an enforcement, lack of
- 10 enforcement of current regulations. All right.
- 11 And there's -- in other words, the DNR is not
- 12 enforcing reckless wake, wake behavior on current
- 13 boats now and that has to be done. Also, I see an
- inconsistency, and I think this was pointed out by
- 15 board member Sheller, about the speed of log
- 16 canoes, that they will exceed often, if there's a
- 17 fresh breeze, they will exceed six knots, so you're
- 18 sort of putting in a petition here that is
- inconsistent with performance of the boats and you
- 20 somehow have to reconcile that. Okay.
- MR. MARSH: Thank you, sir, and Mick has

1 a question for you. 2 MR. BLACKISTONE: I have a question for 3 you, you're a safety expert, you teach safety, 4 you're a sailboater? 5 MR. SASIELA: I have a sailboat and a 6 powerboat, yes. 7 MR. BLACKISTONE: And you frequently 8 visit this area that's in yellow? 9 MR. SASIELA: Yes. 10 MR. BLACKISTONE: Do you worry about 11 injuring any of these young kids that are in 12 sailing schools or doing their regattas? 13 MR. SASIELA: Oh, I'm very conscious of 14 that and I will slow down so I don't create a wake, 15 and that's where, you know -- I mentioned earlier 16 about the enforcement really being an issue. 17 You're going to be instituting this, where is the 18 enforcement for this much larger area when you 19 heard, you know, testimony that it seems to be 20 lackadaisical? So you're creating I would say a 21 bigger monster almost in terms of increasing the

- 1 area for enforcement, yet you, the area is smaller
- 2 and you're still not getting enforcement right at
- 3 the Maritime Museum.
- 4 MR. BLACKISTONE: Are you concerned
- 5 about your own safety and your wife's when you
- 6 frequent that area and these wakes?
- 7 MR. SASIELA: Let me say my skill level
- 8 is such that I know how to take a wake, I know when
- 9 the wake is coming to alert my crew, immediately,
- 10 wake, and, you know, this is part of living in and
- 11 enjoying the water, those are the types of things
- 12 you do.
- 13 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Any other
- 14 questions? Thank you, sir, appreciate that.
- MR. SASIELA: Thank you.
- MR. MARSH: Anybody that would like to
- 17 speak against the petition and has anything new
- 18 that they would like to add to that gentleman's?
- 19 No more. No more against that.
- We do have the NRP person that patrols
- 21 that area that we asked to come up and give us a

1 little information about safety violations and 2 other things that we've heard about. Are you 3 stationed there? SGT. RATHGEB: I'm the supervisor for 5 Talbot and Caroline Counties, yes. 6 MR. MARSH: Print your name and --7 SGT. RATHGEB: I'm nervous standing up 8 in front of the room and talking before everyone. 9 MR. MARSH: We'll watch out for you. 10 SGT. RATHGEB: My name is Sergeant Brian 11 Rathgeb and I am the supervisor for Talbot and 12 Caroline County for the Natural Resources Police. 13 I'm here on behalf of Corporal Rafter (phonetic), 14 who's actually the officer who completed this 15 survey, who did the majority of the work for it. 16 He had court and couldn't be here. I do want to 17 start out, just for the record, I do want to note 18 that the proposal that was presented to Corporal 19 Rafter was different than the proposal that is 20 currently in front of us. The proposal that was 21 presented to Corporal Rafter was to establish a

1 six-knot speed zone at all times all year long for 2 all vessels, so that just -- anyways, just a note 3 of clarification as to what he was looking at. The recommendation based on his original 5 survey and also based on this here would be to deny 6 the speed zone. The area based on the statistics 7 that we have, and I don't have those in front of 8 me, but based on boating accidents and complaints 9 in the area, this section of the Miles River is 10 very safe. I understand that there are numerous 11 personal anecdotes as to negligent, reckless 12 boating in the area, but in terms of accidents that 13 we have been called to investigate, incidences that 14 we have responded to and been made aware of, that 15 the area in question is a safe area and does not 16 require a speed zone. 17 MR. MARSH: Any questions? 18 Yes, in the back. THE CHAIRMAN: 19 MR. MARSH: No, no, we'll let you speak 20 Right now we're asking the committee for 21 any questions from the committee.

1 MR. NICKEL: Your staffing in this area, 2 how is this area staffed? There's a huge choke 3 I mean I know staff situations, somebody point. stated there was a vessel in one of these coves, 5 what is the staffing? 6 SGT. RATHGEB: There are actually two 7 vessels in St. Michaels. The issue is, is that 8 there are four officers that work Talbot and 9 Caroline County 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 10 so to have a significant presence all the time in 11 St. Michaels is impossible. 12 MR. NICKEL: Secondly, is there a 13 protocol on when these people are having races that 14 they can request police presence? Is it reported 15 to you, is it reported to the Department of Natural 16 Resources or the police? 17 SGT. RATHGEB: It's supposed to. 18 this situation in St. Michaels here they would 19 report or make any request --20 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, just a second, 21 sir. You'll have to, you have to --

1 (Discussion held off the record.) 2 MR. MARSH: Go ahead, sir. 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead. SGT. RATHGEB: Any requests made for the 5 St. Michaels area would be made to the Natural 6 Resources Police office in Hillsborough, it goes to 7 a lieutenant there who then passes it on to me. 8 Now, I've only been the supervisor in this area for 9 four months, I haven't received any requests for 10 any races, regattas, so forth in the St. Michaels 11 area in that time. I can't speak for before that, 12 but during this time period. 13 MS. ALLISON: What is the approximate 14 time that you spend on the water in this area and 15 how many days a week? Or do you patrol it once a 16 day, every Monday, every Friday? 17 There is no, there is no SGT. RATHGEB: 18 set schedule as to when we are in St. Michaels and 19 I couldn't even venture a guess as to the 20 percentage. We, we try to move based on activity, 21 where there's a big activity level. Whether it's

1 commercial crabbing down in Tilghman, right now 2 water fowl up on the Choptank River, recreational 3 boating is out of St. Michaels primarily on the 4 weekends in the summertime, I couldn't venture a 5 quess as to the percentage of time. My officers 6 know the area, they know where they should be. 7 know it's an excuse and it's a terrible one, but, 8 you know, they are stretched and so they get to St. 9 Michaels when they can get to St. Michaels. And 10 that's the best answer I can give you. 11 MR. MARSH: Thank you. Any other 12 questions? Any questions from the board? 13 Thank you very much. Appreciate that. 14 Anyone else that would like to say anything? 15 know you had your hand up, sir. 16 MR. GARGALLI: I withdraw the request, 17 it's obvious we don't have representation in St. 18 Michaels. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: We can't hear you, sir. 20 MR. GARGALLI: Two boats stationed 21 there.

1 MR. BLACKISTONE: I'd like to ask the 2 group in charge of the regattas, whether it's the 3 museum or the Miles River Yacht Club, if you don't 4 get marine police presence during your regattas 5 what -- have you ever thought of asking the 6 National Boating Federation or the Coast Guard 7 Axillary to come help you out and post their boats 8 there with their flags? I mean because you know 9 you're beating a dead horse if you're trying to get 10 a police officer down there, why don't you be 11 creative? Your problem to me seems to be the 12 racers versus the big boat owners, and God knows 13 there's enough big boat owners in St. Michaels, but 14 why can't you use some kind of other safety net, 15 which would be the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the 16 people that volunteer their time all over the 17 place? Comment? 18 MR. SHOOK: That's not, that's not true. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: We're going to restrict 20 the comments going back and forth and we can do 21 this until dark.

Transcript of Boat Act Advisory Committee Meeting for Slaughter Creek, Elk River, Chester River, Miles River Taken October 20, 2011

1 MR. BLACKISTONE: Trying to solve the 2 problem. 3 Because people do have THE CHAIRMAN: 4 opinions. Now, since you are I think with the 5 Maritime Museum; is that correct, sir? 6 That's correct. MR. SHOOK: THE CHAIRMAN: We normally do not have 8 rebuttal in a hearing. You make your statement, we 9 take that into consideration, the board has the 10 authority to request people who are speaking or 11 DNR, but after that we really kind of roll up our 12 hearing, so unfortunately I'm sorry to say if you 13 do have something you wish to add, you certainly 14 can submit it to us and we will put it in the 15 record, I think we'll do it that way. 16 So based on that I'm going to adjourn 17 the hearing. We're going to go for lunch now and 18 after lunch we will have our executive session, and 19 any you are welcome to attend the session and hear 20 our discussion on all of the issues; however, you 21 do not have the option of making comments from the

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     floor. So based on that we're adjourned.
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                    (Hearing adjourned at 12:58)
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1	STATE OF MARYLAND
	COUNTY OF BALTIMORE
2	
3	I, Kelly A. Taylor, a Notary Public in
4	and for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore,
5	do hereby certify that the aforegoing is a true and
6	accurate transcript of the proceedings indicated.
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	Ly anne 19201
9	Kelly A. Taylor, Notary Public
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Transcript of Boat Act Advisory Committee Meeting for Slaughter Creek, Elk River, Chester River, Miles River Taken October 20, 2011

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