



# THE SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION

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## Speaker Busch: Pugilistic in Defense of Stormwater Fees

**Annapolis, MD** – Michael Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, last night urged anyone interested in helping save the Chesapeake Bay to make their voices heard in support of the new stormwater management plan.

It's important to stand up to those who derisively and incorrectly label the stormwater restoration fee as a "rain tax," Busch told attendees at the Severn River Association's (SRA) annual dinner at the Annapolis Maritime Museum.

The Speaker made his stout defense of stormwater control programs after receiving SRA's Blue Heron Award for his support for environmental programs in Maryland.

Busch urged bay supporters to let their neighbors and politicians know that keeping the stormwater fee "is the right thing to do" to ensure that the waters of the Chesapeake Bay are safe to swim in. He pointed to last week's closure of Lake Ogleton due to excessive fecal matter contamination as a prime example of why stormwater control programs are needed to protect the Bay and its tributaries. "We all have a responsibility to the Bay and the Severn River" to support the stormwater program, Busch said.

It's particularly important for Anne Arundel County to invest in stormwater control programs, Busch said, because Anne Arundel has more waterfront than any other county in Maryland. Therefore, he told the SRA gathering, "we should be the leaders" in adopting funding measures to correct stormwater problems and help protect the bay.

He encouraged SRA and other defenders of the bay to take on those who complain about a 'rain tax'. "You have to take them to task," he said. Now is the time to confront naysayers because "this is a watershed election" and "it's gonna take your voice" to make the case in the battle between "Bay Pavers and Bay Savers."

Visit SRA on Facebook:



The Severn River Association is the oldest river association in the U.S. and Anne Arundel County's only river group in continuous operation since 1911. SRA meets the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are free. Residents and representatives of community associations are encouraged to attend, get involved and make their opinions on watershed issues known.