

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Anne Arundel County enjoys a robust economy, much due to the maritime industry and the attraction of its many waterways. The County has 534 miles of shoreline on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay with corresponding high real estate values and serves as host to the most recreational and commercial boaters. The County also has the largest number of registered boaters in the State of Maryland who contribute the most of any Maryland County to the Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF).

Created in 1966 by Natural Resources Article 8-701, the WIF provides funding to for the benefit of the general boating public. Revenues for this Fund are obtained primarily from the one-time 5% excise tax that is paid to the State of Maryland when a boat is purchased and titled in the State.

The Anne Arundel Waterway Restoration Alliance has reviewed WIF data provided by DNR, and urges that Anne Arundel County should receive annually, an amount commensurate with WIF deposits. For many years our County has received an insufficient amount of WIF funds to dredge its many vital waterways.

In 2010 the WIF received \$21 million dollars in excise taxes from boat sales. Anne Arundel County alone was responsible for depositing \$4.3 million (20%) yet for 2010 received \$296 thousand of those funds. Anne Arundel boaters contribute the most excise tax to the WIF of any County in the State, yet receive only 1.4 % of the WIF funds distributed in FY2011. This inequitable share of WIF funding is not sufficient to maintain or improve any waterway within the County, and as a result, the AACo dredging program has been halted. Our waterways are in dire need of dredging to maintain boater access and real estate values.

This White Paper is to heighten the awareness of our legislators to this injustice by providing information and statistics on the allocation of WIF funding, as illustrated by the attached graph.

Waterway Improvement Fund

FY2010 Funds Collected vs Granted

