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Testimony for Capital Budget Funds for the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Thank you for allowing me to talk very briefly about the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum's request for \$250,000 to address significant infrastructure needs at our 51-year-old museum in St. Michaels.

Our overriding purpose has been to ensure safe conditions for our employees, 70,000 visitors and 3,500 school children. We are working as quickly as money allows to renovate our historic and non-historic buildings. Examples include our distinctive lighthouse, our small boat shed, our steamboat building and our waterman's wharf.

We've got a lot of work to do. Upgrading our aging infrastructure is our top priority.

During the past 18 months, we have raised \$6.7 million, primarily from our generous board members, friends and private foundations. We believe in helping ourselves before seeking government funds.

We seek your favorable attention to our request.