

measure, or as a combination of the two. In any event, it is my considered judgment, after long thought and consultation with various agencies of the State, that this Bill would have a state-wide impact on conservation and taxation, and that in the interest of the general welfare of the people of Maryland, the subject matter of the Bill should be studied and considered on a State-wide basis.

In addition to the foregoing, the Attorney General has called attention to the fact that one possible interpretation of the Bill is that it creates a sales tax, rather than a severance tax, and that if this interpretation were correct, the Bill would present serious questions of constitutionality. The Attorney General finally resolved the question in favor of the constitutionality of the Bill, but recognized that there were grave and serious questions in this regard.

For the foregoing reasons, I feel that I am left with no alternative than to veto this Bill.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) J. MILLARD TAWES,  
Governor.

JMT/rnb

#### House Bill No. 887—Director of Tidewater Fisheries

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 9 (a) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1960 Supplement), title "Natural Resources", subtitle "In General", subheading "Department of Tidewater Fisheries", providing that the Director of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries shall be appointed by the Governor and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

May 4, 1961.

Honorable Perry O. Wilkinson  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, of the Maryland Constitution, I am returning to you herewith House Bill No. 887 which has been vetoed by me.

The Bill provides that the Director of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries shall be appointed by the Governor and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor.

Under the present law, the Director is appointed by the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries with the approval of the Governor and holds office at the pleasure of the Commission.

Since the creation of the Commission in 1959, the position of Director has never been filled and the duties of the important post have been performed by the Chairman of the Commission. The members of the Commission have assured me, however, that within a period of 60 days a Director will be appointed by them, subject to my approval, as provided in the present law.