



Senate Bill 491

Regulation of Invasive Plants - Bamboo - Prohibitions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: February 11, 2020

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 491. The bill would allow both counties and the Department of Agriculture to take stronger action to curb problematic bamboo growth.

State and local agencies have been receiving an increasing number of complaints regarding overgrown bamboo. Unlike other plants, there are few biological controls for bamboo, which means that unkept areas of bamboo quickly expand beyond their intended boundaries. Bamboo is difficult to maintain and can present problems for residents and surrounding property owners.

This bill would prohibit individuals from allowing bamboo to grow without proper upkeep and maintenance to prevent overgrowth onto a public right-of-way. SB 491 would allow counties to adopt rules and regulations to contain instances of bamboo overgrowth.

For these reasons, MACo asks the Committee to offer a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 491.