



To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Perseveration of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival, now in its 34th performing season is generously supported by funding provided by the Maryland States Arts Festival, both from its operating funding and through its touring roster grants. Without these generous funding, GLAF would not be fortunate enough to complete its mission to provide quality performing arts opportunities to its community and its under reached youth population. Being in the far corners of Western Maryland, out youth are not exposed to the arts like those of the more urban areas. Without GLAF, the students would not be exposed to classical dance like Ballet, or orchestral music, or even be able to travel to see a quality performance in an area like Hagerstown. GLAF is the lifeblood of arts and arts education to this community. The arts are integral to helping develop young minds, as well as, to ensure future success.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 135.

Thank you,

Andrew H. Harvey
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