

SB282_Testimony_AR_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Annie Richards

Position: FAV



Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 0282 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund

February 7, 2023

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 0282** on behalf of ShoreRivers. ShoreRivers is a river protection group on Maryland's Eastern Shore with more than 2,000 members. Our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, and education.

Maryland loses about 3,000 acres of forest every year. Forest clearing contributes to poor water quality, fragmentation and loss of wildlife habitat, reduced carbon sequestration, air pollution, increased temperatures, localized flooding, and lower property values. On the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where more than 60% of all land use is shaped by agricultural activities, the negative impacts of irresponsible forestry on an already under forested landscape are more acute, as are the detriments to local water quality.

The shorelines of the Chester River are defined by Kent and Queen Annes counties—the two least treed counties in the state. As the Chester Riverkeeper, I work with local counties to protect what mature forests exist within the Chester's watershed, with an understanding that positive effects for water health are not the only benefits forests can bring to a community and its economy when done sustainably.

This bill will increase education and support for district forestry boards and landowners with emphasis on healthy forest management, ecological service markets, emerging forest threats, climate science, forest conservation, urban forestry, sustainable science, forestry policy, and best practices. It will also provide small grants for landowners to trial innovative best practices on their forest lands.

Trees are one of the most positive long-term investments that can be made to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, and many of our trees are threatened by the ongoing effects of climate change, as well as development activities within our watersheds. **By educating our counties and our communities on the importance and value of our mature forests, and by connecting individuals with the resources to better steward privately owned forests, we can increase our chances of protecting and increasing forest canopy across our region.**

We support this bill for increased forestry education and resources, and urge the Committee to adopt a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 0282**.

Sincerely,

Annie Richards

Chester Riverkeeper, on behalf of ShoreRivers

ShoreRivers

Isabel Hardesty, Executive Director

Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher Sassafras Riverkeeper

shorerivers.org | 443.385.0511 | info@shorerivers.org

SB 282 Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establis

Uploaded by: Cait Kerr

Position: FAV

Wednesday February 8, 2023

TO: Guy Guzzone, Chair of Senate Budget & Taxation Committee; and Committee Members
FROM: Michelle Dietz, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Government Relations; and Caitlin Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation & Climate Policy Analyst
POSITION: Support SB 282 Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 282 offered by Senator King. This bill would establish the Maryland Forestry Education Fund as a permanent fund to enhance and expand the Maryland Forestry Foundation's education programs for forest landowners.

TNC is a global conservation organization working to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Maryland, our work focuses on delivering science-based, on-the-ground solutions that secure clean water and healthy living environments for our communities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience in the face of a changing climate. We are dedicated to a future where people and nature thrive together.

TNC and the American Forest Foundation jointly developed the Family Forest Carbon Program, which enables family forest owners to access carbon markets, empowering them to help address climate change while earning income from their land. This program has resulted in verifiable carbon reductions, economic benefits for rural areas, increased private investment in forests, and improved habitat and forest resiliency. We educate and support private and family landowners to advance forest stewardship while generating economic gains. We understand how beneficial and cost-effective a program similar to the Maryland Forestry Education Fund can be for our state.

The ongoing funding established in SB 282 would dedicate additional financial support for a variety of sustainable forestry activities for forestry boards in Maryland, along with providing additional educational resources for local governments and landowners to support forest conservation. There are nearly 150,000 private and family forest owners in Maryland, amounting to 1.2 million acres of forested lands. These forests supply massive clean air and water benefits, provide habitat to a variety of species, are vital for climate resilience and are critical to Maryland communities' health and to the state's economy. In order to better manage these resources across the state, SB 282 will expand forest landowner training programs' scope to incorporate the latest information on sustainable forestry practices, ecosystem services, climate science, conservation, and more. By providing consistent learning opportunities for private land owners, district forestry boards and local governments, this learning can be integrated into state forest management plans. Improving forestry stewardship on privately owned lands is vital for maintaining biodiversity in Maryland and leading to more resilient forests across our state.

The Nature Conservancy commends Senator King for investing in forest stewardship and education for private forest landowners across the state to support forest resilience and biodiversity for years to come.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 282.

SB0282-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 282

Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 8, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 282. This bill would establish the Maryland Forest Education Fund under the Maryland Forestry Foundation. This fund is meant to provide additional educational resources to local governments for forest conservation.

Maryland's forests are one of her most fantastic natural resources. Preserving those resources is critical both for a healthy environment and for a thriving economy. Counties have been at the forefront of forest preservation, as can be seen from the numerous conservation efforts in each jurisdiction. By establishing a fund under the Maryland Forestry Foundation, this bill would enhance the Foundation's ability to conduct outreach and education efforts, aiding local governments in preserving more forest land.

SB 282 would build on the work of counties by providing additional resources for local government leaders in the forest conservation field. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 282.

SB 282_CBF_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Doug Myers

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

SB 282

Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

Date: February 8, 2023

To: Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Support

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 282 which establishes a Maryland Forestry Education Fund to enhance and expand Maryland Forestry Foundation's education programs for forest landowners.

Much of Maryland's forest land is in the possession of private landowners. The decisions these landowners make can have significant consequences for the environment including water quality protection, fish and wildlife habitat and mitigation of greenhouse gases among others. SB 282 expands the scope of forest landowner training programs by providing up-to-date information on sustainable forestry practices and ecosystem services.

Landowners, forestry boards, and local governments can integrate this information into forest management plans that protect forest functions while maintaining profitability of the forest resource. CBF especially welcomes education on climate science, forest conservation, and urban forestry as these topics are often missing from traditional forest education programs.

Building local capacity, institutionalizing sustainability, and peer-to-peer education are all tenants of a successful model for regenerative natural resources management. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation appreciates this legislation's efforts to improve forest stewardship through forestry education.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 282.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

SB0282_DNR_SUP_B&T_2-8-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Wilson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Acting Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

February 8, 2023

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 282 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports SB 282. The bill would provide training and education to counties, towns and homeowners that would assist the Maryland Forest Service in maintaining existing healthy forests and expanding tree canopy cover.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Maryland Forestry Foundation is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of Maryland and designated as tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] with a mission that includes management of fundraising efforts of Maryland’s Forest Conservancy District Boards and assistance in allocating and distributing financial resources among the Boards. The Maryland Forest Conservancy District Boards are county entities established under Maryland law to assist the Maryland Forest Service by promoting forestry through education in their county.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill establishes a Maryland Forestry Education Fund with the purpose of enabling the Maryland Forestry Foundation and the district forestry boards to provide education and resources to Maryland’s forest landowners and local governments. The fund can only be used to provide training and education on advances in healthy forest management, emerging forestry threats, climate science, sustainability, and other pertinent topics. This will be accomplished through a biannual forest sustainability conference, peer-to-peer learning exchange, outreach and small grants.

Contact: Emily Wilson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services (Acting)
emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8426 (office) ♦ 443-223-1176 (cell)

Sb 282 testimony Senate B&T GA final .pdf

Uploaded by: gary allen

Position: FAV



March 30,2022

To: Senate Budget and Tax Committee

From: Gary Allen, President, Maryland Forestry Foundation

Re: Support of SB 282 Forestry Education fund

Mr. Chairman and members My name is *Gary G Allen, President, Maryland Forestry Foundation*. We would like to thank Senator King and her colleagues for advancing this bill. I would like to call your attention to the written testimony submitted by Maryland's last regular State Forester in support of this legislation. He underlines both the need for forestry education and the lack of capacity within state government to address it. The Forestry Foundation was created over thirty years ago to assist the local forestry Boards to raise funds to achieve their mission to provide stewardship education to Maryland's private forest landowners and local government assistance in outreach.

As the number of landowners and threats to healthy forest resources have grown new tools and resources are required. SB 282 is a modest step to strengthen the capacity of the forest community to address this goal. We want to use the example created to address similar needs in the agriculture community when the Agricultural Education Foundation was created and funded by the legislature. The Forestry Foundation is that organization and now we ask you support for an education fund operating within the parameters set by this legislation to work with both **rural and urban landowners, volunteers and professionals** to better provide access to the best management practices available to strengthen their stewardship of Maryland forest resources, better ensure its diversity and continue to preserve it as vital for water quality climate science and the broad array of ecological and social services that all benefit from. We ask you favorable support of SB 282

Gary G Allen,
President, Maryland Forestry Foundation

See attached testimony from Mr. Don Vanhassent former State forester and Ms. Joli McCathran chairman of the Association of State forestry Boards.

HB876 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment **support**

My name is Donald VanHassent. I worked for the DNR-Forest Service for forty years before retiring in December of 2019. The last five and a half years I served as the Director and State Forester. The fourteen years before that I was an Associate Director with the Forest Service.

Among the many activities the Forest Service performed was forestry education. We realized a long time ago that most people really didn't know or understand what forests were, what they had to offer, what they could provide, nor did they know or understand what forest management was. Sure, they knew there were trees there, it was a good place to hike or hunt and sometimes trees were harvested for wood products. But they did not understand the things they could not see – the positive effect forests have on water and air quality, the habitat for animals and plants (both rare and common), and economic impacts to both the forest landowner and the public.

To help address this issue the Forest Service had a program to conduct educational seminars, school programs, booths at county fairs, etc. We had a small group of employees who had this as their focus while others helped on specific events. Many of these events were conducted in cooperation with the county forest Conservancy District Boards. This changed almost twenty years ago. Budget challenges required a serious look at all aspects of the Forest Service with the intent that something will be cut. It was a very difficult decision, but the Forest Service cut the forestry education program. We felt this would eventually come back to bite us at some point we just didn't know when.

So, here we are, almost twenty years later and we are still facing the many of the same issues. There are approximately 800,000 more citizens in Maryland, probably less forest land although strong action at state and local levels have reduced the amount lost. We need a strong, focused effort to renew forestry education efforts in Maryland. SB 282 is an excellent first step and I urge you to vote favorably on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald VanHassent
Maryland State Forester, retired

SB282 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Joli McCathran

Position: FAV



Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards

Testimony in Favor of SB-282 February 8, 2023 Joli McCathran, President

My name is Joli McCathran and I am the President of the Maryland Association of Forestry Boards. I am testifying on behalf of the 24 Maryland counties forestry boards, which includes the City of Baltimore, in support for SB-282 to establish the Maryland Forestry Education Fund. The Forestry Boards were established in 1943 by law in Maryland to assist the State's Forest Park and Wildlife Service, now the Department of Natural Resources, to outreach to landowners on forest management practices on privately owned woodlands state-wide. It is the job of these boards to offer these services to education and assist in working with Maryland's forest landowners. We seek the funds to better education the over 250 forestry board volunteers to serve the citizens of Maryland in attaining their goals.

This service now expands beyond just the production of wood products and cover such concerns as restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, addressing urban and suburban environ as well as rural areas, and to education the public.

SB 282 will enhance the ability and effectiveness state-wide for Forestry Board members to work in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources in achieving our mission, which is: *To promote the stewardship, conservation, and sustainable use of Maryland's Forest Resource*. I strongly seek your support of HB 282.

Thanks for Sen. Nancy King for sponsoring this legislation and to the senators who are co-sponsoring this bill.

Testimony for SB 282--Maryland Forestry Education

Uploaded by: Maureen Fine

Position: FAV

Testimony for SB 282--Maryland Forestry Education Fund
Hearing Date Feb. 8 at 1:00

Co-sponsors: [King](#), [Carozza](#), [Corderman](#), [Elfreth](#), [Gile](#), [Guzzone](#), [Klausmeier](#), [Kramer](#), [McKay](#), and [Salling](#)

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Person Submitting: Maureen Fine 2509 Knighthill Lane, Bowie, MD 20715

Dear Sen. King and Committee members,

I'm writing in support of SB282. Our forests help in the fight against Climate Change, keep our air and water clean, protect the Chesapeake Bay, support human health and biodiversity, and perform countless other ecosystem services. To be effective in improving and increasing our forest cover here in Maryland, we must support more education and outreach to the private landowners who control **70%** of our forestlands, in addition to increasing our public land protection efforts!

SB282 would create a Maryland Forest Education Fund that would provide education and resources to Maryland's forest landowners (who are responsible for 70% of our forestlands), and to local governments for specific purposes. These purposes might include how to keep a forest healthy and thriving; how to foster sustainability using science based best practices; promoting climate mitigation and resilience; forest conservation; urban forestry, and other purposes listed in the bill.

Please deliver a FAVORABLE report on SB282.

Thank you,
Maureen Fine
2509 Knighthill Lane
Bowie, MD 20715
240-421-3454

LOS SB 282 Sustainable Maryland Hunninghake 2-7-23

Uploaded by: Mike Hunninghake

Position: FAV

The logo is an oval with a yellow background and a black border. Inside the oval, the words "SUSTAINABLE" and "MARYLAND" are written in bold, black, uppercase letters. Below "MARYLAND", the word "CERTIFIED" is written in white, uppercase letters on a red rectangular background.

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND

CERTIFIED

HELPING COMMUNITIES INVEST TODAY FOR A MORE LIVABLE TOMORROW

Date: February 6, 2023

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 282 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

Position: Support

RE: Support of SB 282 establishing the Maryland Forestry Education Fund

Dear Senator King and Committee members,

The Sustainable Maryland program strongly supports the creation of the Maryland Forestry Education Fund. It's a measure that is long overdue. The need to expand Forestry Board capacity has significantly grown over the years as the number of people who own forest lands has multiplied, the threats to forest health increase annually, and the need for implementation of best management practices reaches a critical juncture. The Forestry Education Fund would provide for better stewardship education and the ongoing capacity to deliver it, at a modest cost, enabling the Maryland Forestry Foundation to help the Boards and local governments achieve an even greater impact in the years ahead.

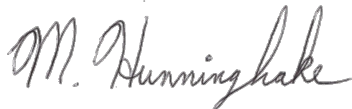
The Sustainable Maryland program at the University of Maryland has worked directly with incorporated municipalities for over 10 years, including in more than half of the state's urbanized towns and cities. Our experience providing technical assistance to these communities suggests that this funding will help yield broader and deeper urban forestry awareness and increase the number of in-the ground projects at the local level. The Green Teams that we help organize and support, which include council members, public works staff, foresters and local residents, need to know what resources are available to them in terms of technical assistance and funding. The Forestry Education Fund would function as that essential conduit of information.

Empowered by these resources and assistance, Green Teams will have ability to marshal hundreds of local volunteers for the installation and maintenance of much-needed projects, which will in turn have positive, climate-friendly multiplier effects in their communities,

fostering cleaner air and water, cooler neighborhoods, and greater sense of place. The Green Teams are also the perfect tool for conducting outreach and education to directly to landowners about the importance of trees and green infrastructure, all of which will be managed and supported by the Forestry Education Fund.

Sustainable Maryland has worked with the Maryland Forestry Foundation for many years, and we look forward to the prospect of partnering with them on the implementation of the Forestry Education Fund.

I urge you to vote “Yes” in support SB 282 and the establishment of a long-overdue Maryland Forestry Education Fund.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "M. Hunninghake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'H'.

Mike Hunninghake
Program Manager
Sustainable Maryland
Environmental Finance Center - University of Maryland at College Park
www.sustainablemaryland.com

SB282 Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

Position: FAV

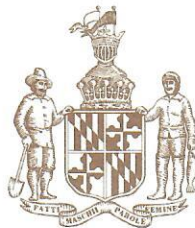
NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 282 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

February 8, 2023

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Our forests are critically important to our environment. They cleanse the air we breathe, they filter the water we drink - which protects our rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and its habitat - and they act as an important buffer against climate change.

Educating our citizens about the importance of maintaining forest land has long been a priority in our state. Twenty years ago, the state Forest Service within the Department of Natural Resources had an education program that conducted seminars, school programs, and other educational outreach programs that taught that forests were about more than just trees. Unfortunately, that program was eliminated when the agency was downsized, and Maryland Forest Service still does not have enough staff to conduct significant outreach and education about our forests.

Senate Bill 282 will create a Maryland Forest Education Fund that would provide education and resources to Maryland's forest landowners and local governments for purposes, such as healthy forest management, climate science, forest conservation, urban forestry, and other related purposes. This fund will add to and enhance work being done by the Maryland Forestry Foundation (an independent 501c3), local district forestry boards and community forestry programs, which were created as a means of outreach to forest landowners.

In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in support of planting and maintaining five million native trees in the State by 2031. A key focus of that legislation was supporting tree equity through targeted native tree planting in underserved urban communities. Senate Bill 282 and The Maryland Forest Education Fund complements that 2021 legislation and will help to educate all landowners about the importance of healthy forest management.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 282.

MDE SB0282 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: FAV



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary-Designee Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 282
Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment***

Position: Support
Committee: Budget and Taxation
Date: February 8, 2023
From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 282. The bill established a special, nonlapsing fund to expand and enhance the Maryland Forestry Foundation's capacity to educate and resource forest landowners, district forestry boards, and local governments on mechanisms to achieve healthy sustainable forests.

Specifically, SB 282 directs the new Maryland Forestry Education Fund be used to drive awareness of and training in:

- Healthy forest management;
- Ecological service markets;
- Emerging forestry threats;
- Climate science;
- Forest conservation;
- Urban forestry;
- Sustainability science;
- Forestry policy;
- Forestry Practices; and
- Resource options that promote the multiple benefits of forest management.

This bill enables further landowner outreach and engagement on long-term forest maintenance and management, which aligns with recommendations from the "Final Plan for Growing 5 Million Trees in Maryland" and the work of the Maryland Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings. Sustained investment could also increase local capacity for practice adoption and drive climate-smart forest management in line with the state's ambitious net zero carbon mitigation goal.

Though MDE is not impacted directly, ongoing coordination with the Department on tree programs and related state engagement on carbon markets and conservation financing is anticipated.

Accordingly, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 282.