

**Testimony in Favor of HB-289  
March 1, 2023**

**Joli McCathran, President  
Maryland Association of Forestry Boards  
Maryland Big Tree Program  
Maryland Forestry Foundation  
American Forests National Cadre of Tree Measurers**

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.

HB 289 will enhance the ability and effectiveness of forestry board members 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 Del Stein for sponsoring this legislation and to the senators who are co-sponsoring this bill.