

HB 289 - FAV - MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 1, 2023

Committee: House Environmental & Transportation

Bill: HB 289 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 289, which establishes a Forestry Education Fund with the goal of environmental, economic, and social sustainability of forest health.

Local governments benefit greatly from healthy forests and sustainable forest management. This fund could provide grants to local governments to test innovative best management practices and provide resources like training and education to municipal leaders to further municipal forest growth.

The Maryland Municipal League greatly appreciates the Sponsor's attention to this issue and respectfully requests a favorable committee report on House Bill 289.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy

Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

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HB289_ShoreRivers_AR_SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Annie Richards

Position: FAV



Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB289 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund- Establishment

February 27, 2023

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB289** 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 its 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 just some of the many 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 an 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 **HB289**.

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

Stein Testimony HB 289.pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Stein

Position: FAV

DANA M. STEIN
Legislative District 11
Baltimore County

—
Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees
Chair, Environment
Natural Resources,
Agriculture and Open Space



The Maryland House of Delegates
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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 289
Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment

Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Our committee passed this legislation last year 24-1 and the House passed it 122-9. The Senate has passed the cross-file, SB 282, by a vote of 45-0. I'll explain the purpose of this bill.

Twenty years ago, the Forest Service within the Department of Natural Resources had an education program that conducted seminars, school programs, and other educational outreach programs that taught about the importance of forests and trees to many aspects of our lives. Today, we know even more: for example, that trees help sequester carbon from the atmosphere. But ordinary citizens, particularly in urban areas, don't know that, and the education program was eliminated when the agency was downsized from over 130 to about 70 staff. The Maryland Forest Service has not had enough staff to conduct outreach and education about our forests.

The purpose of HB 289 is to build the capacity of existing organizations, such as the Maryland Forestry Foundation (an independent 501c3) and district forestry boards--which were created as a means of outreach to forest landowners—to provide such education. This bill would 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 listed in the bill.

Maryland has long recognized the need to educate residents on the important role agriculture plays in the state by funding the Maryland Agricultural Foundation in 1989 and authorizing the creation and sale of Agricultural license plates. Just as the purpose of the AG Foundation is to educate citizens about the important role agriculture plays in the state, the Maryland Forestry Foundation, through this fund, would do the same for our forests.

I urge you to support HB 289.

Stein Testimony HB 289.pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Stein

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I urge you to support HB 289.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_HB0289.pdf

Uploaded by: D'Andrea Walker

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **HB 289**

TITLE: Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 1, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 289 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment. This legislation would establish the Maryland Forestry Education Fund.

The Baltimore County Forestry Board has been an active force for preserving and taking care of the County’s natural resources. Forestry Boards are a vital tool for educating and working directly with residents on maintaining forest land and conducting reforestations. As local governments continue to work towards fighting climate change and preserving natural

House Bill 289 would provide much needed support for local forestry boards. This legislation would expand the capacity of the Maryland Forestry Foundation to provide grants to local forestry boards for training and outreach programs. With expanded capacity to provide assistance, local forestry boards would be empowered to educate residents on how to be responsible stewards of forest land and assist the County in protecting and preserving its valuable forests.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 289. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

HB0289-ET_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 289

Maryland Forestry Education Fund – Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 1, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 289. 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.

HB 289 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 HB 289.

HB0289_DNR_SUP_E&T_3-1-23.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Wilson

Position: FAV



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

March 1, 2023

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 289 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department supports HB 289. 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)

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Uploaded by: Emily Wilson

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HB 289_CBF_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Erik Fisher

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

HB 289

Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

Date: March 1, 2023

Position: Support

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 289, which establishes a Maryland Forestry Education Fund to enhance and expand the 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. HB 289 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 HB 289.

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.

HB289 testimony House E&T GA final.pdf

Uploaded by: gary allen

Position: FAV



March 30,2022

To: House environment and Transportation committee

From: Gary Allen, President, Maryland Forestry Foundation

Re: Support of HB 289 Forestry Education fund

Mr. Chairman and members My name is *Gary G Allen, President, Maryland Forestry Foundation. We would like to thank Delegate Stine for advancing this bill and his continuing leadership on forestry related issues. 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. HB 289 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 HB289*

*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.

HB 289– 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. HB 289 is an excellent first step and I urge you to vote favorably on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald VanHassent
Maryland State Forester, retired

Joli McCathran President of the Maryland Associati

Uploaded by: Joli McCathran

Position: FAV

**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.

TEST HB 723 23 Document (20)_pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: Lani Hummel

Position: FAV

TO: House Committee on Environment and Transportation
Resources – Forest Preservation and Retention

TESTIMONY on: HB 723 – Natural
POSITION: FAVORABLE
HEARING DATE: March 1, 2023
I purchased my home in 2001. The house was nothing special, but the trees were spectacular, both on my property and in the woods and forests in the surrounding community. My plan was to fulfill a lifelong dream of creating my own bird sanctuary. After much hard work, I attracted many birds. I needed 17 bird feeders that I refilled every day to satisfy my feathered visitors. Then the developers came and the trees and forests began to disappear. As a result, my birds began to disappear as well. Now, I use two bird feeders which I need to refill only once a week. The beautiful bird songs I loved so much have been largely replaced by traffic noise, much more prominent with fewer trees to muffle it. Not long ago, a fellow bird lover who lives in Charles County, came to my house in Annapolis for the first time. When I gave her my address, she said, “Forest Drive, that sounds lovely!” I did not respond. When she arrived, the first thing she said was “Why do they call it Forest Drive?” Good question...The loss of trees and forests is not merely a matter of degradation in the quality of life for bird lovers. Trees and forests are important in our efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, already apparent in our daily lives and increasing at an alarming rate. The 1991 Forest Conservation Act is woefully inadequate to minimize forest loss and fragmentation. The reforestation of a quarter acre planted for each acre cleared is not sufficient. In addition, protections for the state’s most valuable priority forests leaves many vulnerable to removal. We can never forget that every tree lost makes our battle against climate change more daunting. And an exception here, a variance there add up to a significant loss. According to the Harry A. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology of the University of Maryland, Maryland experienced a net statewide forest loss of more than 19,000 acres from 2013 through 2018. Such a loss is unsustainable if we want a better future for our children. I urge you to issue a FAVORABLE report on HB 723 because this legislation will strengthen and update forest goals and definitions to provide clarity and reflect new data, protect and conserve more forest land and tree canopy, and give local governments significantly greater flexibility to pursue solutions that meet local development priorities and advance equity. Thank you for your consideration,
Lani Hummel
Annapolis Roads

HB289 - RMC Support Testimony - Maryland Forestry

Uploaded by: Megan D'Arcy

Position: FAV



Susan O'Neill, Chair

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Testimony in Support of
House Bill 289 - Maryland Forest Education Fund - Establishment
Environment and Transportation Committee
March 1, 2023

The Rural Maryland Council supports House Bill 289 - Maryland Forest Education Fund - Establishment. This bill establishes the Maryland Forestry Education Fund, a special fund administered by the Maryland Forestry Foundation. In general, the purpose of the fund is to provide small grants and specified training, education, and outreach opportunities for forest landowners, district forestry boards, local governments, and businesses. Beginning in fiscal 2025, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$250,000 to the fund. The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

The Forest Industry grows food, creates hundreds of products, and helps the environment. Nearly 40% of Maryland is forested – the single largest land use in the state that offers tremendous environmental and economic benefits. According to Grow and Fortify's *Value-Added Agriculture in Maryland - An Economic Analysis*, the large scale forestry and wood derivatives contributes nearly \$3.5 billion to the state economy, supporting over 15,000 jobs. Ecologically forests can absorb carbon as they grow and mature, which helps offset fossil fuel emissions. Additionally, they act as natural filters and are seen as excellent water quality buffers, which protect waterways from polluted runoff.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) supports the forest industry in Maryland by administering the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF). This fund provides grants to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. In FY2023, RMC awarded \$233,000 in grant funds to 8 organizations whose projects focused on the forest industry. These projects ranged from supporting the purchase of a cable skidder to enhance applied learning to forestry students at Allegany College of Maryland to supporting the Maryland Forestry Foundation and their work with compensating forest landowners for the ecological benefits of practicing sound forest stewardship.

The Council has worked with the Maryland Forestry Foundation over the years and feels that they will be excellent stewards for the Maryland Forestry Education Fund and the provisions laid out HB289. The Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests your favorable support of House Bill 289.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county, and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

“A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland”

HB 289 Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establis

Uploaded by: Michelle Dietz

Position: FAV

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

TO: Kumar Barve, Chair of House Environment & Transportation 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 HB 289 Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 289 offered by Delegate Stein. 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 HB 289 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, HB 289 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 Delegate Stein 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 HB 298.

LOS HB 289 Sustainable Maryland Hunninghake 2-27-2

Uploaded by: Mike Hunninghake

Position: FAV

The logo is a yellow oval with 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 27, 2023

Committee: Senate Environment and Transportation Committee

Bill: HB 289 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

Position: Support

RE: Support of HB 289 establishing the Maryland Forestry Education Fund

Dear Chair Barve 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 HB 289 and the establishment of a long-overdue Maryland Forestry Education Fund.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Hunninghake".

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

MDE HB0289 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: FAV



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 289
Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Establishment

Position: Support

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date: March 1, 2023

From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 289. The bill would establish 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, HB 289 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 HB 289.

Contact: Gabrielle Leach, Deputy Director of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs
410-260-6302 (Annapolis Office), 410-453-3235 (cell), Gabrielle.Leach@maryland.gov