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Testimony in favor of HB0950 Maryland Native Plant Program
March 3, 2023

Greetings,

Favorable.

The Green Towson Alliance proposed this bill to improve the commercial availability of Maryland native plants. I am Dr. Sara Tangren, and they invited me to speak because I have published research on this topic. In 2018, I led a team that surveyed 760 people who buy native plants and seeds to do their jobs.

Our survey shows that

- **94%** of respondents say commercial shortages make it difficult for them to purchase native plants and seeds.
- **95%** want more continuing education opportunities, fact sheets, and research.
- **75%** expect their demand for native plants to increase.
- **74%** said they prefer locally sourced native plants and seeds
- **418 miles** is the average distance that respondents go to buy commercially available native seeds.
- **and** Even though we didn't ask any questions about labels, 46 respondents wrote comments about bad experiences they've had with poorly labeled potted plants.

Before our survey, nine others produced similar responses. My colleagues' concerns about the poor commercial availability of locally sourced native plants and seeds are well-supported by the literature.

Along with my written testimony, I have submitted a summary and link to the full publication.

Thank you!