



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.