



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

January 30, 2024

Hon. Brian J. Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: SB300 FAVORABLE**

**Chairperson Feldman,**

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB300** – a piece of legislation that will allow the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) to preserve historic structures in the Belt Woods Natural Environment Area.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: [presmd.org](http://presmd.org))

This piece of simple legislation provides the department with the authority to rehabilitate historic properties at the site – some of which date to the late 18th century. Currently, the department is forbidden from making any improvements to the site, which is considered a Special Maryland Wildland. Just 8 miles from the D.C. border, the site is a National Natural Landmark and is one of the remaining stands of old growth hardwood forest on the Atlantic seaboard. The legislation will not change the status, protection, or preservation of the forest, but only permit the department to expend funds to stabilize the equally important 18th-century structures on-site before they are lost.

SB300 is a vital piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

**Favorable**

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO