

Adrien Malick (NHSM) speech draft for March 12 202

Uploaded by: Adrien Malick

Position: FAV

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman and Delegate Wells.

My name is Dr. Adrien Malick and I am a Trustee, Curator, and a Co-Founder of the Fossil Club of the Natural History Society of Maryland – the NHSM. I am speaking in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the NHSM as Maryland State’s official natural science museum.

I strongly support this action because the NHSM, a largely volunteer organization, is critical to the care and protection of Maryland's natural science collections. We are facing a crisis in Maryland. As collectors retire or pass away, irreplaceable natural science collections need a home so they remain available for research and education and are not discarded into landfills. Ongoing State support is vital in this endeavor.

NHSM attracts passionate experts who utilize the collections and create unique experiences including wild edible walks, moth nights, and finding fossils - in the buildings of Baltimore, in quarries, and on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

We have utilized the collections of NHSM and its members to create the Fossils in Classrooms Program. In February we provided over 10,500 fossils to Baltimore County Public Schools to support the Stream Doctors program in all 371 3rd grade classrooms (about 8000 students). NHSM also donated 34 Fossil Kits (over 7000 fossils) to Maryland Environmental and Outdoor Educators, and we are currently building Fossil Kits to be distributed during a Teacher Day at the Museum.

Maryland is behind and does not yet have an official state natural science museum. The NHSM has been filling that role for nearly a century. Now is the time to make NHSM an official state museum to protect irreplaceable collections for research and education. Your action will support future mentors, programs, and opportunities for the citizens of Maryland.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

((MAEOE Md Assoc for Environmental and Outdoor Education))

Adrien Malick (NHSM) support letter for SB 0035 HB

Uploaded by: Adrien Malick

Position: FAV

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support

Hearings; March 12, 2026

HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 17, 2026

Adrien Malick, Ph.D.

Trustee, Paleontology Curator, and Co-Founder of the Fossil Club of the Natural History Society of MD

10817 Acme Ave., Granite, MD 21163

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair

House Government, Labor and Elections Committee

145 Lowe House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

My name is Dr. Adrien Malick and I am a Trustee, Curator, and a Co-Founder of the Fossil Club of the Natural History Society of Maryland – the NHSM. I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State’s official natural sciences museum.

I strongly support this action because the NHSM is critical to the care and protection of Maryland's natural science collections and to the revitalization of Overlea and surrounding communities. We are facing a crisis in Maryland. As collectors retire or pass away, irreplaceable

collections of natural science materials need a home so they remain available for research and education and are not discarded into a landfill. Ongoing State support is vital in this endeavor.

I am a life-long fossil collector and retired scientist. Working closely with NHSM enables me to experience and share two absolute thrills – finding fossils and then putting them in the hands of children. In order to reach as many students as possible, the NHSM has created the Fossils in Classrooms Program. This program is unique to the NHSM and distinctive in that it trains and equips teachers with accessible paleontological content while placing authentic fossil specimens directly into students' hands. Teacher's comments range from:

- “We would not have had the funding to support such a wonderful resource”
- “What a fantastic resource for our students without vision! We use real objects whenever we can to enhance the connection and real meaning for our students.”
- “This kit is an essential accompaniment to our science unit. Our school has limited funding compared with other city schools and our students are at-risk. Our kids would be so excited to use this.”

The Fossils in Classrooms program utilizes the collections of NHSM and its members. In February of 2026 we provided over 10,500 fossils to Baltimore County Public Schools to support the Stream Doctors program in all 371 3rd grade classrooms. NHSM donated 34 Fossil Kits to Maryland Educators as part of our participation in the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) conference in February, and we are currently building kits to be distributed during a Teacher Day at the Museum. This enhances the education experience of thousands of kids and will spark life-long interests in fossils, evolution, nature, climate change and a host of other topics.

NHSM attracts passionate experts who utilize the collections and make themselves available as curators, mentors and as invaluable leaders of trips, tours and hands-on activities. These unique experiences include wild edible walks, moth nights, and finding fossils - in the buildings of Baltimore, in quarries, and on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Outdoor experiences are often led by experts in their fields, and it is not unusual to be discussing the land forms, the paleontology, the current ecology, and referencing our collections to identify the birds, mushrooms, plants, and animals.

Your approval of NHSM as the State Natural Sciences Museum will help provide a desperately needed collections facility for the state's irreplaceable natural science collections, create a central location for natural science education and research, expand science literacy in Maryland, and offer an economic engine for the community. A central location will foster collaboration between individuals and organizations that don't usually have the opportunity to connect with

one another. These collections cannot be lost to landfills. State support is critical to these activities.

Maryland is behind and does not yet have an official state natural sciences museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has been filling that role for nearly a century. Now is the time to make NHSM an official state museum to protect irreplaceable collections for research and educate people about Maryland's important role in our planet's history. Your action will support future mentors, programs, and opportunities for the citizens of Maryland.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

Adrien Malick, Ph.D.

Natural History Society of Maryland Trustee, Curator, and Fossil Club Co-Founder

2025 Impact One Pager.pdf

Uploaded by: Bronwyn Mitchell-Strong

Position: FAV

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

2025 Annual Impact Report

236

Programs Delivered

19

Maryland Counties

13,000+

Catalog Records

\$2.4 million

Community Investment

STATEWIDE IMPACT

- Free public hours maintained Jan–Mar
- 45% programming is free of charge

Field Trips	83
Club Events	48
Online Programs	43
Classes/Workshops	19
Mobile Museum Events	16
Canoe Trips	16

PLUS: 2 teacher trainings, 5 merit badges, 1 community science, 3 special events

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

- Hired full-time Collections Manager
- Surpassed 13,000 digital records in Arctos; 400+ herbarium specimens pending
- Environmental monitoring, archival rehousing & non-toxic pest treatment
- New research loans with JHU, Towson University & Evergreen Museum
- Hosted 6 interns across scientific disciplines

NATURAL
HISTORY
SOCIETY



of Maryland

EXHIBITS & EDUCATION

- Retired the Ice Age in Maryland exhibit
- Launched a digital walkthrough — accessible statewide
- Began planning: The Geologic History of Maryland exhibit
- Delivered Nature's Glow mobile exhibit at Ladew Gardens
- Developed new 3rd-grade fossil kit with Baltimore County Public Schools
- Began development of Junior Naturalist Program

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Digital Maryland

Baltimore NeighborSpace

Goucher College

Pratt Library

Frostburg State University

IMET

DIGITAL & PUBLIC REACH

Facebook	12,600	followers
Instagram	2,500	followers
YouTube	3,400	subscribers
Watch Hours	23,000	hours

2,000+

Volunteer & Intern Hours

\$70,000+

Community Economic Impact

Despite building closures and structural challenges, NHSM continued delivering statewide educational programming, advancing collections' care, and expanding public access to Maryland's natural history.

www.marylandnature.org

2026 Letters of Support 1 of 2.pdf

Uploaded by: Bronwyn Mitchell-Strong

Position: FAV

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support

Hearings; March 12, 2026

HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 17, 2026

Adrien Malick, Ph.D.

Trustee, Paleontology Curator, and Co-Founder of the Fossil Club of the Natural History Society of MD

10817 Acme Ave., Granite, MD 21163

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair

House Government, Labor and Elections Committee

145 Lowe House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State's official natural science museum.

I strongly support this action because the NHSM is critical to the care and protection of Maryland's natural history collections and to the revitalization of the Overlea, Parkville and Hillendale communities. We are facing a crisis in Maryland. As collectors retire or pass away, irreplaceable collections of natural science materials need a home so they remain available for research and education and are not discarded into a landfill. Ongoing State support is vital in this endeavor.

I am a retired scientist and life-long fossil collector. Working closely with NHSM enables me to experience and share two absolute thrills – finding fossils and then putting them in the hands of children. In order to reach as many students as possible, the NHSM has created the Fossils in Classrooms Program. This program is unique to the NHSM and distinctive in that it trains and equips teachers with accessible paleontological content

while placing authentic fossil specimens directly into students' hands. Teacher's comments range from:

- “We would not have had the funding to support such a wonderful resource”
- “What a fantastic resource for our students without vision! We use real objects whenever we can to enhance the connection and real meaning for our students.”
- “This kit is an essential accompaniment to our science unit. Our school has limited funding compared with other city schools and our students are at-risk. Our kids would be so excited to use this.”

In February alone NHSM delivered over 10,500 fossils for all 371 Baltimore County 3rd grade classrooms and 35 large kits of fossils to Maryland Outdoor Educators. This program enhances the classroom experience of hundreds of Maryland teachers and can spark life-long interests in fossils, evolution, nature, and a host of other topics.

NHSM attracts passionate experts who make themselves available as curators, mentors and as invaluable leaders of trips, tours and hands-on activities. These unique experiences include wild edible walks, moth nights, and finding fossils - in the buildings of Baltimore, quarries, and on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Outdoor experiences are often led by experts in their fields, and it is not unusual to be discussing the land forms, the paleontology, the current ecology, and referencing our collections to identify the birds, mushrooms, plants, and animals.

Your approval of a State Museum will help provide a desperately needed collections facility for the state's irreplaceable natural history collections, create a central location for natural science education and research, expand science literacy in Maryland, and offer an economic engine for the community. A central location will foster collaboration between individuals and organizations that don't usually have the opportunity to connect with one another. These collections cannot be lost to landfills. State support is critical to these activities.

Maryland does not yet have a state natural history museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has been filling that role for nearly a century. Now is the time to make NHSM an official museum to protect irreplaceable collections for research and educate people about Maryland's important role in our planet's history.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

Adrien Malick, Ph.D.

Natural History Society of Maryland Trustee, Curator, and Fossil Club Co-Founder

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 12, 2026
March 17, 2026

Carly Redett

Specialist II, Environmental Research Group, LLC

6049 Falls Rd Baltimore, MD 21209

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

I strongly support this action because NHSM plays a vital role in revitalizing the Overlea, Parkville, and Hillendale communities while safeguarding Maryland's natural history collections for future generations. This investment supports education, inclusion, and long-term community well-being.

I work for an environmental consulting company and have had the privilege of visiting the NHSM firsthand. I was able to see all the impactful work they do to preserve Maryland's natural history and create a safe space for Marylanders to learn. As somebody who cares deeply about protecting natural resources, I believe the NHSM is crucial in educating the next generation of environmental stewards.

When I visited the museum, I felt very welcomed by the staff. Everyone I interacted with was knowledgeable, helpful, and clearly passionate about their work and about Maryland's natural history. That enthusiasm was evident throughout the museum and reflected a deep commitment to education and public engagement.

After visiting the museum, it's clear to me that NHSM is uniquely positioned to be designated as the State Museum. As the primary steward of the state's natural collections, it is a well-deserved designation. NHSM preserves and shares valuable collections in a way that helps Marylanders

better understand our natural heritage, while also inspiring young people to explore interests the natural sciences. A central location will allow NHSM to expand their reach and continue strengthening the communities they serve.

I strongly support these bills because, based on my experience visiting NHSM, it is already fulfilling the role of Maryland's natural history museum through education, stewardship, and community engagement. Making this support official will help protect irreplaceable collections and ensure more Marylanders can learn from and be inspired by our state's natural heritage.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

Carly Redett

Specialist II

Environmental Research Group, LLC



3/4/2026

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support March 12, 2026
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support March 17, 2026

To Senator Brian J Feldman, Delegate Melissa Wells,

I represent **Haven Coworking** and write in strong support of SB0035 and its companion bill HB 0173. These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum. As a group that has invested over \$3M in our building across the street it would mean a lot to see the museum grow.

Maryland does not have a state natural history museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has been filling this role for nearly a century. Now is the time to make NHSM an official Maryland museum to protect irreplaceable collections for research and educate people about Maryland's important role in our planet's history.

NHSM has served as a trusted steward of Maryland's natural heritage, preserving collections, providing educational programming, and connecting communities to the rich biodiversity of our region. Official state recognition would strengthen these efforts, expand opportunities for public engagement, and help ensure the long-term preservation of Maryland's natural history resources.

The Natural History Society of Maryland resides in the Overlea Community as does my business and is an integral partner to our successful community development and revitalization efforts. My business strongly supports this name change.

Sincerely,

Austin Carroll Managing Member

Haven Coworking

6809 Belair Road, Baltimore MD

SB 0035 March 12, 2026

HB 0173 March 17, 2026

Donald L. Lofgren PhD

Trustee, Natural History Society of Maryland

313 Broadmoor Road, Baltimore, MD 21212

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair

House Government, Labor and Elections Committee

145 Love House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State's official natural history museum.

I strongly support this action because it is critical to the educational needs of Maryland residents and it insures that collections that document the extant and extinct life of the Maryland and nearby regions will be preserved in perpetuity.

I'm a vertebrate paleontologist who after a long career as the director of a paleontology museum in California retired to Baltimore and joined the board of the NHSM (January 2025). I did so because I was amazed with the depth and scope of their outreach programs

and their efforts to preserve irreplaceable natural history collections that would have been lost forever. I'm excited to support the drive to designate the NHSM as Maryland's official natural history museum.

The staff, volunteers, and trustees make the NHSM a special institution. Established over 100 years, it has successfully grown in scientific stature and in its ability to serve the public on limited resources because of the passion and dedication of these individuals. Many volunteers are professionals in their fields who serve as curators of NHSM collections that match their expertise. Only the best museums attract volunteer talent like that.

A state's natural history museum is a place where priceless collections of extant and extinct biota are preserved for posterity. Collections are expensive to house and maintain but if this is not done scientific data is lost forever. Certain state & federal agencies and many serious private collectors will eventually need a permanent repository for their natural history collections. The NHSM would be that place for Maryland.

Maryland currently does not have a state natural history museum and the NHSM is ready to accept that role. This would be major step in the evolution of the NHSM in its drive to develop into a nationally renowned scientific institution.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support of the bill.

Cordially,

Donald Lofgren PhD, Trustee of the Natural History Society of Maryland, and Director Emeritus of the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology.

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support March 12, 2026

HB 0173 (House Bill) Support March 17, 2026

Mary R. Triandafilou
808 S. Sharp St.
Baltimore, MD 21230

Senator Bill Ferguson
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Luke Clippinger
362 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Senator Ferguson and Delegate Clippinger,
I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

Our family has recently discovered this fantastic institution and are amazed at the tremendous collection of specimens that highlight Maryland's diverse and fascinating natural history. Their staff and volunteers are experts in their fields and passionate about our state, and they are involved in a wide variety of research and educational activities. Their offering of hundreds of programs every year cover Maryland's natural history in every aspect. Their offering of clubs that specialize in various aspects of the natural world is unbelievable. Even more appealing to our family, including grandchildren of school age, is the warm and welcoming atmosphere in the building. Children are learning and having a ball in activities that will stay with them all their lives.

This institution fulfills the role as the central repository for innumerable valuable collections that must be preserved. It is unconscionable that Maryland does not have a state natural history museum. Your approval will provide a collections facility for the state's irreplaceable natural history collections, creating a central location for natural science education and research. It will expand science literacy in Maryland, and offer an economic engine for the community.

The Natural History Society of Maryland has been filling that role for nearly a century. Now is the time to make NHSM an official museum to protect irreplaceable collections for research and to educate people about Maryland's important role in our planet's history.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

Mary R. Triandafilou



EMPOWER PEOPLE | STRENGTHEN FAMILIES | BUILD COMMUNITY & TRUST

The EPICENTER

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) – Support
March 12, 2026

HB 0173 (House Bill) – Support
March 17, 2026

Karson Langenfelder
Chief Growth and Operations Officer
The EPICENTER
1918 Pulaski Highway
Edgewood, MD 21040

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Chair Wells,

I write in strong support of SB 0035, sponsored by Senator Jackson, and its companion bill HB 0173, sponsored by Delegate Allen. These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

I support this legislation because Maryland deserves a formally recognized institution dedicated to preserving our natural heritage, advancing science literacy, and serving as a central hub for research, education, and community engagement.

As the Chief Growth and Operations Officer of The EPICENTER, a nonprofit organization serving families and neighbors across Harford and Baltimore Counties, I have seen firsthand how place based institutions strengthen communities. Our work focuses on empowering people, strengthening families, and building community through youth programs, health and wellness initiatives, life skills training, and recovery support. Institutions like the Natural History Society of Maryland play a complementary role by inspiring curiosity, lifelong learning, and environmental stewardship among the very communities we serve.

The Natural History Society of Maryland is a unique and invaluable asset to our state. Its extensive collections, knowledgeable staff and volunteers, and wide range of educational programs make it a vital resource for students, researchers, and families. Through lectures, field experiences, exhibits, and hands-on learning opportunities, the Society fosters a deeper understanding of Maryland's diverse ecosystems and natural history. It also serves as an anchor for community revitalization efforts in the Overlea, Parkville, and Hillendale areas.

Designating the Natural History Society of Maryland as the official state natural science museum would formally recognize the role it has long fulfilled. It would provide stability and visibility for the preservation of irreplaceable collections, expand opportunities for collaboration with schools and community organizations, and strengthen Maryland commitment to science education. An official designation will also support regional economic development and position Maryland as a leader in conservation and public engagement in the natural sciences.

Maryland currently does not have an officially designated state natural history museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has effectively served in that capacity for decades. Formal recognition is both appropriate and overdue.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to share my support for these important bills.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KLA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karson Langenfelder
Chief Growth and Operations Officer



Maryland Forestry Foundation
124 South Street #3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone : 301-717-1579
Website : www.marylandforestryfoundation.org

March 2, 2026

Support for SB 0035 and HB 0173

GARY G. ALLEN
President

Vice President for
Development

SANDRA SPARKS
Vice President for
Communications

DAWN BALINSKI
Treasurer

Secretary

Directors
JIM BARDSLEY
MEGAN CARR
CHRISTINE CONN
GLENN FERENSCHIAK
ANNE HAIRSTON-STRANG
MIKE HUNNINGHAKE
WAYNE LUCAS
JOLI A. MCCATHRAN
BILL REES
JOHN R SMITHMEYER

Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB 0035, sponsored by Senator Jackson, and its companion bill HB 0173, sponsored by Delegate Allen. These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State's official natural science museum. I strongly support this action. NHSM plays a vital role in preserving Maryland's natural history.

My experiences with NHSM, including membership and participation in its ongoing work, have shown me the wealth of knowledge and resources it provides. Their extensive collection of specimens, to which I've contributed, highlights Maryland's diverse ecosystems.

What makes NHSM special is its dedicated staff and volunteers, who are not only experts in their respective fields but also passionate advocates for our state's natural heritage.

Designating NHSM as the official state museum would establish a central repository for our irreplaceable natural history collections, enhance educational opportunities, and inspire future generations to pursue interests in natural sciences, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

Maryland does not currently have a state natural history museum, but NHSM has been fulfilling that role for nearly a century. Now is the time to formalize this designation to protect vital collections and educate our citizens about Maryland's significant contributions to the natural world.

I urge you to support this important and timely legislation.

Sincerely,

The Maryland Forestry Foundation is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by law.

HB 1073 Support

March 17, 2026

Gina Foringer
President/CEO Environmental Research Group, LLC
5700 Ridgedale Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chair Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

NHSM is critical to the revitalization of the Overlea, Parkville and Hillendale communities and the care and protection of Maryland's natural history collections.

As the owner of an environmental consulting firm, I love the Natural History Society of Maryland and have worked with the staff on public engagement activities outside of the museum. They have hundreds of thousands of fascinating specimens highlighting Maryland's diverse and fascinating natural history, with more added all the time.

Their staff and volunteers are experts in their fields and passionate about our state, and they are involved in a wide variety of research and educational activities. They offer so many programs every year including in-person lectures and tours, field trips throughout Maryland, and online activities.

Your approval will provide a collections facility for the state's irreplaceable natural history collections, create a central location for natural science education and research, expand science literacy in Maryland, and offer an economic engine for the community. A central location will foster collaboration between individuals and organizations that don't usually have the opportunity to connect with one another.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,



Gina Foringer
President/CEO
Environmental Research Group, LLC

Bill Numbers and dates must be at top of Page

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 12, 2026
March 17, 2026

Phyllis Kepner
6220 Burgess Avenue
Baltimore MD 21214

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

Please vote in favor of the bill REHB169SP0064. The Natural History Society of Maryland has made a difference in my life and my husband's. Everytime we go there we see something or learn something new. I am part of the Lep Club. I now share my knowledge of moths and butterflies with preschoolers to adults. I volunteer at schools, churches, community events and more. I enjoy watching the excitement and wonder of children and adults teaching them how to raise moths and butterflies. I encourage people to give it a try to raise and save these special moths and butterflies. I also encourage people to visit the NHSM by giving them a card. I tell them that there is so much to learn there.

This organization is the future of natural sciences. We need to protect it. So please vote in favor of this bill, so we can continue to provide the wonderful services that the NHSM has to offer.

A NHSM Member and Volunteer,

Phyllis Kepner

SB 0035 – SUPPORT

HB 0173 – SUPPORT

March 12 & 17, 2026

Gregory S. Pokrywka, MD, FACP, FNLA, FASPC
Director, Baltimore Lipid Center
Director, WatersEdge Kayak Club
Founder & Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Turtle & Tortoise Society (MATTS)
7801 York Road, Suite 300
Towson, Maryland 21204

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Chair Wells:

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 0035 and House Bill 0173, which would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as Maryland's official natural science museum.

This designation is long overdue.

The Natural History Society of Maryland has served, in practice, as our state's natural history museum for nearly a century. It safeguards irreplaceable scientific collections, advances research, and provides extensive public education programming. Yet Maryland remains one of the few states without an officially designated natural history museum.

As a biochemist, zoologist, and physician specializing in preventive cardiology, my scientific career has been deeply shaped by an early passion for natural history. I vividly recall visiting NHSM in its former downtown location and being captivated by its collections of Maryland's native flora and fauna. That formative exposure to scientific inquiry and biodiversity influenced my professional path and lifelong commitment to science.

I am a lifetime member of NHSM and have collaborated with the Society through the Mid-Atlantic Turtle & Tortoise Society (MATTS). My kayak club, consisting of ~ 2000 members, most of whom live in the greater Baltimore area, also has collaborated with NHSM on

several projects. I myself have led a NHSM trip to explore the natural history of our unique Smith Island. I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable transformation of the museum and the extraordinary dedication of its volunteers and professional staff. Their expertise, integrity, and passion for Maryland's natural heritage are exceptional.

NHSM offers more than 300 programs annually, including lectures, field excursions across Maryland, educational workshops, youth programming, and online learning initiatives. In an era of increasing scientific misinformation and skepticism, institutions grounded in rigorous scientific standards are not optional — they are essential.

Designating NHSM as the official state natural science museum will:

- Secure a permanent collections facility for Maryland's irreplaceable natural history specimens
- Establish a centralized hub for research, collaboration, and scientific education
- Strengthen science literacy statewide
- Support community revitalization in Overlea, Parkville, and Hillendale
- Provide meaningful economic and cultural impact

Maryland's biodiversity, geological history, and ecological legacy deserve formal recognition and stewardship. NHSM has demonstrated the capacity, stability, and leadership to fulfill that role.

This legislation affirms Maryland's commitment to science, education, and preservation. I respectfully urge your favorable report on SB 0035 and HB 0173.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Pokrywka, MD

SB 0035 Support

March 12, 2026

Gina Foringer
President/CEO Environmental Research Group, LLC
5700 Ridgedale Road
Baltimore, MD 21209

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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Their staff and volunteers are experts in their fields and passionate about our state, and they are involved in a wide variety of research and educational activities. They offer so many programs every year including in-person lectures and tours, field trips throughout Maryland, and online activities.

Your approval will provide a collections facility for the state's irreplaceable natural history collections, create a central location for natural science education and research, expand science literacy in Maryland, and offer an economic engine for the community. A central location will foster collaboration between individuals and organizations that don't usually have the opportunity to connect with one another.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,



Gina Foringer

President/CEO

Environmental Research Group, LLC

SB 0035 Support

March 12, 2026

Nikki Lawson
Project Specialist, Environmental Research Group, LLC
4540 Chews Vineyard
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chair Senator Feldman,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

I strongly support this action because the collections held in the Natural History Society of Maryland museum have been painstakingly accumulated and cared for and deserve protection in the future.

In addition, the location in Overlea is beneficial because it provides museum options outside of the city and will draw visitors to the area.

This topic and the area are near and dear to my heart. I am employed at ERG which supports natural resources management and protection. It is so important to protect our resources going forward, as well as to document the history of what came before. I believe this museum will spark interest in others and encourage them to do both. I grew up in the area and was married very close to this location. Friends and family still live in the area which is worthy of revitalization.

The staff and volunteers are so dedicated to this mission. They are experts in their fields and work tirelessly to keep this museum alive. It is obvious when speaking with them that they are passionate about their community.

Designating this organization as a state museum would allow them to continue to care for valuable collections, provide education on Maryland's history, and spark interest in potential scientists.

Thank you for reading my letter and considering this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nikki Lawson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nikki Lawson
Project Specialist
Environmental Research Group, LLC

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 12, 2026
March 17, 2026

March 6, 2026

Valerie Brennan
1520 Charmuth Road
Lutherville, MD 21093
443-435-3173 jvdhbrennan@gmail.com

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 0035 (hearing March 12), and HB 0173 (hearing March 17) which would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as Maryland's official Natural Science Museum.

I am a recently retired teacher from Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) and have resided in your district for close to 20 years. Having dedicated my career to public education, I deeply value initiatives that enhance learning opportunities for students across Maryland. I also recognize that you share a strong commitment to supporting education.

In my retirement, I have become actively involved as a volunteer with the Natural History Society of Maryland, where I have seen firsthand the powerful impact the organization has in engaging people of all ages through hands-on activities, access to scientific collections, and meaningful educational programming.

I was inspired to learn that volunteers assembled 400 science kits for Baltimore County Public Schools to support the teaching of evolution and other core scientific concepts. I was proud to contribute fossils from my own fieldwork with the Society to this effort. This initiative is a clear example of how the Society directly supports classroom learning and enriches science education in our schools.

SB 0035, sponsored by Senator Jackson, and its companion bill HB 0173, sponsored by Delegate Allen, represent an important opportunity to formally recognize the Society's longstanding contributions to science education, community engagement, and stewardship of Maryland's natural heritage.

I respectfully urge you to approve these bills to demonstrate your commitment to advancing science education and public learning opportunities throughout our state by designating the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State Natural Science Museum.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Valerie Brennan

2026 Letters of Support 2 of 2.pdf

Uploaded by: Bronwyn Mitchell-Strong

Position: FAV

Kerry Wixted
1058 Plum Creek Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032
Kwixted0@gmail.com

3/5/2026

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 0035 / HB 0173, which would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State Natural Science Museum.

As a lifelong Maryland resident and a biologist who began my career in Maryland in 2009, the Natural History Society of Maryland has played a meaningful role in my professional development. Early in my career, the Society provided opportunities for mentoring, networking, and professional growth that helped shape my path in public service.

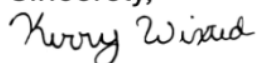
Beyond my personal experience, the Society serves as a vital hub for Maryland's natural history community. It connects professional scientists, students, and community members through education, field experiences, and mentorship opportunities. the support I received early in my career, I now strive to reciprocate by providing activities for the next generation of naturalists throughout the State.

The Society's longstanding museum collections are also an invaluable resource for research, conservation, and education. These collections help scientists gather information about species distributions, ecological change, and biodiversity. Such resources are irreplaceable and are critical for informing conservation and management decisions across the region, especially in the face of a changing climate. Also equally important is the joy of bringing nature to life with the museum's artifacts through its many outreach events throughout the year.

Designating the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State Natural Science Museum would appropriately recognize the Society's longstanding contributions to education, scientific research, and public engagement on behalf of Marylanders.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting science and natural history in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Kerry Wixted
Vegetation Ecologist
Writing in my personal capacity

March 06, 2026

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 12, 2026

March 17, 2026

Daniel Dean

Vice President/Research Chair – Marshy Point Nature Center Council

District 5 Representative – Landmarks Preservation Commission, Baltimore County

9017 Old Harford Rd
Parkville, MD 21234

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair

House Government, Labor and Elections Committee

145 Lowe House Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (referred to as NHSM) as the State's official natural science museum.

The NHSM has been the long-standing organization in Baltimore County with a focus that benefits all of Maryland through their experience and knowledge. Our county has little representation compared to others, but has the resources for growth through outreach. The volunteers who provide education for those in the community and open access to this knowledge deserve to be recognized for these efforts.

I currently represent District 5 in Baltimore County as an appointed position from David Marks, Councilman, on the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am also the Vice President and Research Chair for the Marshy Point Nature Center Council which

supports a local county park in the Middle River area. I have volunteered my time in these positions and to the NHSM through presentations to spread the word of history and its relation to the environment. I support the promotion of archaeology and have been able to attend presentations from state entities, hosted by the NHSM.

The NHSM holds a large collection and the resources to take on the role of the official state designation. The exhibits are fresh and enticing to a new generation. Each time I visited, I felt like there was more to discover. Many who visit are novices with interests in hobbies. The NHSM has provided outlets and direction towards appropriate channels to guide those who wish to partake in these hobbies, such as archaeology, by promoting the state entities which benefit the whole of Maryland vs. private only collections. The NHSM has bridged the gap towards open knowledge and ease of access to those who may otherwise not gain these gifts.

I hope you consider the official designation through the support of these bills. Maryland needs the Natural History Society Museum as its representative.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Dean', with a stylized, cursive script.

Daniel Dean

Vice President/Research Chair – Marshy Point Nature Center Council
District 5 Representative – Landmarks Preservation Commission, Baltimore County

SB 0035 Senate Bill Support March 12 2026
HB 0173 House Bill Support March 17 2026

Jacob Jackson
Environmental Filmmaker and Conservationist Herp Hero Wildlife Foundation
Randallstown MD 21133

Senator Brian J Feldman Chair
Senate Education Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells Chair
House Government Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman and Delegate Wells,

I write in strong support of SB0035 and its companion bill HB0173 to designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the official state natural history museum. As a Maryland based herpetologist conservationist and environmental storyteller, I have seen firsthand how the Natural History Society of Maryland connects people to the landscapes species and scientific knowledge that make our state unique.

I am an environmental filmmaker wildlife professional and founder of the Herp Hero Wildlife Foundation. Much of my work focuses on bringing people into direct relationship with nature especially through the lens of reptiles and amphibians which are often overlooked yet critical indicators of ecosystem health. Through collaboration with NHSM I have helped bring community members out to natural areas across Maryland to look for and study native turtles frogs salamanders and snakes while documenting these experiences through photography and video so more people can see the pathways into science conservation and field work.

One moment that stands out to me was during a field outing where a young participant who had never held a turtle before gently observed a native species while learning from NHSM educators about habitat pressures and health monitoring. Watching that curiosity turn into respect and excitement reminded me why spaces like NHSM matter so deeply. They create real connections between people and the natural world that cannot be replicated in a classroom alone.

My interactions with NHSM have also included working alongside scholars and educators who teach about turtle health frog monitoring and the importance of archival data that tracks changes in herp populations over time. Their collections and expertise provide invaluable context for understanding how Maryland's ecosystems are shifting and how we can respond with informed conservation strategies.

What makes the Natural History Society of Maryland truly special is its ability to bridge research education and community engagement. From preserving specimens and historical records to hosting programs that invite the public into scientific discovery NHSM serves as a living resource that strengthens environmental literacy across our state. It is a place where future biologists land managers photographers and conservation advocates can see themselves reflected in the work.

Designating NHSM as the official state natural history museum would ensure long term support for these efforts while elevating Maryland's commitment to science education biodiversity conservation and public engagement. It would protect irreplaceable collections provide a central hub for research and inspire new generations to pursue careers and volunteer opportunities in environmental fields.

Maryland deserves an official natural history museum that reflects both the richness of our ecosystems and the dedication of those working to understand and protect them. I respectfully urge you to support these bills and help secure a strong future for natural history in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacob Jackson
Herp Hero Wildlife Foundation



www.lassahnfuneralhomes.com

March 3, 2026

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) – Support – March 12, 2026

HB 0173 (House Bill) – Support – March 17, 2026

To Senator Brian J. Feldman and Delegate Melissa Wells,

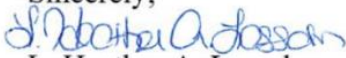
I represent Lassahn Funeral Home, Inc. and E.F. Lassahn Funeral Home, P.A., a long-standing, family-owned business that has proudly served the Overlea and Kingsville communities for six generations, and write in strong support of SB0035 and its companion bill HB 0173. These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

Maryland currently does not have a state natural history museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has effectively fulfilled this role for nearly a century, and the time has come to formally recognize the organization as Maryland's official natural science museum. Doing so will help protect irreplaceable scientific collections, support important research, and provide meaningful educational opportunities that highlight Maryland's role in our planet's natural history.

For many years, the Natural History Society of Maryland has served as a responsible steward of our state's natural heritage by preserving significant collections, offering valuable educational programming, and connecting people of all ages to the biodiversity and scientific importance of our region. Official state recognition would strengthen these efforts, expand public engagement, and help ensure the long-term preservation of Maryland's natural history resources.

The Natural History Society of Maryland resides in the Overlea community, as does my business, and it has been an important partner in the continued growth, development, and revitalization of our community. Our family-owned business strongly supports this name change.

Sincerely,


L. Heather A. Lassahn

Lassahn Funeral Home, Inc.
7401 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21236
410-665-2000

E. F. Lassahn Funeral Home, P.A.
11750 Belair Road
Kingsville, MD 21087
410-592-6100

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 12, 2026

March 17, 2026

Pamela S McNutt
1605 Bayside Drive
Chester, MD 21619

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

I love the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) and have attended several of their events. Looking for eagles at Loch Raven, learning and searching for skunk cabbage, discovering mushrooms out in their environment, taking a trip to Hart-Miller island and learning the impact of water in the Chesapeake Bay, and many more educational zoom learnings and outings. All ages attend these events and the joy of learning is obvious.

There are new events scheduled all the time and it's the only place I know to get involved with Maryland's natural history. The staff and leaders in the field are experts and passionate about teaching. Their joy is infectious and encourages us to learn more.

It's important to educate and protect Maryland's natural history. The NHSM and their collections are critical to provide these services to the community.

Your approval will continue to inspire and educate the community about our natural sciences. Your approval will ensure we keep the valuable collections and continue the education and research to keep our community connected with Maryland's science literacy.

We currently do not have a state natural history museum. NHSM has been there for the community filling that role for a very long time. I highly support making the NHSM an official museum to protect the collections, to continue the research, and to educate our community about our natural history.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela McNutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pamela" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "McNutt".

Pam McNutt

Citizen of Maryland and member of the NHSM since 2022



SB 0035 (Senate Bill) – Support
March 12, 2026

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

HB 0173 (House Bill) – Support
March 17, 2026

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor & Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman and Delegate Wells:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce, I write in strong support of SB 0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen), which would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State's official natural science museum.

NHSM is a vital steward of Maryland's natural heritage and an important economic and community asset for eastern Baltimore County. Official designation will strengthen its ability to preserve irreplaceable collections while expanding its impact in education, tourism, and regional revitalization.

The Chamber has seen firsthand the positive impact the museum and its visitors have had in Overlea and the surrounding communities, supporting local restaurants, retailers, and service providers. It is an important destination for students and families, offering hands-on learning experiences that promote science literacy and inspire interest in STEM careers. As a growing tourism attraction for Baltimore County, NHSM enhances both the economic vitality and cultural identity of our region.

In its newly renovated space, NHSM will showcase hundreds of thousands of specimens documenting Maryland's geology, paleontology, botany, and zoology, and offer onsite and offsite hundreds of educational programs annually. Its knowledgeable staff and volunteers provide lectures, tours, field experiences, and youth programming that connect Marylanders directly with the state's natural history.

Maryland does not currently have an officially designated state natural history museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has effectively fulfilled that role for decades. Formal designation will establish a recognized central repository for the state's natural history collections, strengthen research and educational collaboration, and ensure long-term preservation of these invaluable resources.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 0035 and HB 0173.

Sincerely,

Sharon L. Kihn
President
Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support March 12, 2026
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support March 17, 2026

Michele Cotton & Alan Lee
20A Tree Farm Ct
Glen Arm, MD 21057

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman and Delegate Wells:

We are writing to support SB 0035 and its companion bill HB 0173 designating the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State's official natural history museum.

The NHSM is the appropriate choice because it has an extensive collection of Maryland natural history and paleontology specimens accrued over the nearly one hundred years of its existence. Further, its small but impressive museum has been serving the region for many years through its exhibits, lectures, and events. The NHSM also supports science education in Maryland schools, such as by providing teachers with elaborate "kits" of Maryland fossils.

We have enjoyed going to the NHSM museum to look at the exhibits, hear lectures by experts, and engage in a wide variety of activities around natural history, including book sales, arts and crafts, and the annual Shark Fest. The NHSM also organizes field trips focused on nature, wildlife, and fossils, some of which we have also participated in.

The NHSM has long served as the unofficial center for natural history in Maryland. It's amazing what impressive things its knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers and staff have been able to do with minimal resources. It should finally be recognized for how much it has contributed – and will continue to contribute – to the many Marylanders who care about our natural history.

Sincerely,
Michele Cotton and Alan Lee



Keystone Natural History Preservation Foundation



19 Shoreview Lane, Delta, Pennsylvania 17314

February, 26, 2026

Dean Lee Evans, Pennsylvania Master Naturalist
Founder, Keystone Natural History Preservation Foundation
Delta, Pennsylvania, 17314

RE: SB 0035 March 12, 2026, HB 0173 March 17, 2026

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State's official natural science museum.

I was a naturalist/trail guide at Oregon Ridge Nature Center in Baltimore County and science teacher's assistant with the Baltimore City School System. When I founded my educational science foundation in 2006, continuing education became a must and the NHSM has been the preeminent institution I have turned to time and time again for education in the natural sciences.

NHSM provides classes and education on a plethora of natural history subjects that not only reaches the Baltimore area, but well beyond its borders! I have met individuals that have several hours just to attend NHSM events.

NHSM has become even more special to me lately as I finished the Master Naturalist program in Pennsylvania in October 2025. As a master naturalist, I required to maintain a specific number of advanced training hours and there is one institution I have turned to time and time again - NHSM.

Designating NHSM as Maryland's state's official natural history museum is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity before the Maryland State Legislature and I cannot emphasize the importance of this action. Now is the time to make NHSM an official museum to protect irreplaceable collections for research and educate people about Maryland's important role in our planet's history.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

Dean Lee Evans, founder, Keystone NHPF

Overlea

a Charming Baltimore Neighborhood



SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support March 12, 2026
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support March 17, 2026

To Senator Brian J Feldman, Delegate Melissa Wells,

I represent the Overlea Community Association and write in strong support of SB0035 and its companion bill HB 0173. These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

Maryland does not have a state natural history museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has been filling this role for nearly a century. Now is the time to make NHSM an official Maryland museum to protect irreplaceable collections for research and educate people about Maryland's important role in our planet's history.

NHSM has served as a trusted steward of Maryland's natural heritage, preserving collections, providing educational programming, and connecting communities to the rich biodiversity of our region. Official state recognition would strengthen these efforts, expand opportunities for public engagement, and help ensure the long-term preservation of Maryland's natural history resources.

The Natural History Society of Maryland resides in the Overlea Community and is an integral partner to our successful community development and revitalization efforts. Overlea is honored to have such an esteemed institution in our community. We look forward to this important name change and continued commitment to the state of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Martin Nibali, President

Overlea Community Association

Overlea Community Association

P.O. Box 18895, Baltimore, MD 21206 ~ www.overlearocks.org ~ president@overleasonline.org

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support.

March 12, 2026

HB 0173 (House Bill) Support
2026

March 17,

Jay Hilgartner
2309 Crest Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21209

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I am writing in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

I strongly support these actions because there are no other collections and exhibits located in our state devoted specifically to the natural history of Maryland. The wonderful Smithsonian is close by in Washington, D.C., of course, but it is a museum devoted to America in general and the entire planet. The terrific Maryland Science Center does have some local fossils but it is focused on teaching the sciences in general from Newton to NASA, not specifically on preserving and educating our citizens on the natural history of Maryland. The NHSM is devoted to Maryland's fascinating natural history from incredibly ancient geology (including 500 million year old blue-green algae fossils) from western Maryland, to the more recent 15 million-year-old shark fossils of Calvert Cliffs, to the incredible Chesapeake Bay meteor impact crater, to the current botany, bird, mammal, & marine life of Maryland's forests, Chesapeake Bay, and the Eastern Shore.

As a former television meteorologist (in Kansas, Arkansas, & Florida) who grew up in Owings Mills, retired and am now back living in my home state, I am a huge fan of the Natural History Society of Maryland. You should see their collections department! They have hundreds of thousands of specimens highlighting Maryland's diverse natural history, with more added all the time. With a small staff and expert volunteers, the NHSM manages to offer each year numerous programs, field trips, and lectures from experts in their field.

Your approval will provide an official collections facility for Maryland's natural history collections, create a central location for Maryland natural sciences education and research, and will help to

expand science literacy in Maryland. Incidentally, but importantly, it will also provide an economic engine for the revitalization of the Overlea, Parkville, and Hillendale communities.

Maryland does not have an official state natural history museum. The Natural History Society of Maryland has been filling that role unofficially for nearly a century. Please support SB 0035 and HB 0173 to educate the public about our state's fascinating natural history and its important role in the history of our planet.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Hilgartner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Jay Hilgartner
410-900-6857

SB 0035 Support
HB 0173 Support

March 12, 2026
March 17, 2026

Kathy Bartolomeo
[15 Laurel Hill Rd.](#)
[Unit R](#) ,
Greenbelt, Md. 20770

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official natural science museum.

This organization has wonderful zoom meetings, tours of natural places and discussion on history that reach people

of all ages. The offering by the Natural History Society is wide, from fossils, to rocks, salamanders, buildings, predatory birds.

NHSM is critical to the revitalization of the Overlea,

Parkville and Hillandale communities and the care and protection of Maryland's natural history collections. I am a Marylander that enjoys learning about nature, science and love history.

Though it is a far drive for me, the zoom meetings show a wider world to me.

The speakers are wonderful and varied. 300 programs every year presented, including in-person lectures and tours, field trips throughout Maryland, and online activities.) It would be in the interest of Maryland to designate this organization as our State Museum seeing as they provide such wonderful experiences to people.

Your approval will provide a collections facility for the state's irreplaceable natural history collections, create a central location for natural science education and research, expand science literacy in Maryland, and offer an economic engine for the community. A central location will foster collaboration between individuals and organizations that don't usually have the opportunity to connect with one another.)

I support this bill and hope that you will as well. What a treasure it would be to have Maryland designate a state natural history museum.

For nearly a century, NHSM has worked hard to educate and support the sciences. Now with so much history and research in jeopardy, it is time to make NHSM an official museum to protect

irreplaceable collections for research and educate people about Maryland's important role in our planet's history.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support.

Sincerely,
Kathy Bartolomeo
Greenbelt, Md.

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 12, 2026
March 17, 2026

Stephen P. Panossian
2741 Sweet Clover Court
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I am Maryland resident Stephen Panossian and I write to you in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) as the State's official natural science museum. I support this action strongly because NHSM will serve both as a curator of Maryland's nature legacy to future generations of residents and students, and as a valuable source of reference to scientists predicting Maryland's ecological future based on its natural history records and samples.

I am an environmental science technician with over a dozen years of experience working and volunteering in the woodlands of the DC/MD/VA region (formerly with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and currently with the Fairfax County Health Department and Nature Forward). NHSM not only offers me the opportunity to reinforce what I have studied and experienced, and socialize with other natural science enthusiasts, but also to learn and experience aspects of Maryland's biomes new to me, through thousands of specimens on exhibit (see Figure 1), and over 300 webinars, classes, and field trips annually.

I grew up in New York City, and one of my favorite activities was visiting the American Museum of Natural History. Seeing exhibits and attending classes made an indelible impression on me, and I knew that somehow, I would be a scientist when I grew up. Supporting NHSM will ensure this Maryland scientific institution continues to exist and to inspire future generations of scientists.

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support
HB 0173 (House Bill) Support

March 12, 2026
March 17, 2026

Consider the diversity of plant life and wildlife in our great state, from the Eastern shore along the Atlantic Ocean, to the banks of the Chesapeake Bay, across to the Appalachian Mountains in Western Maryland. Now consider the northward and southward urban sprawl along Interstate 95 that threatens all these natural resources. Thus, your approval of this pending legislation will provide a collections facility for our state's irreplaceable natural history collections, create a central location for natural science education and research, expand science literacy in Maryland, and offer an economic engine for NHSM's neighborhood. Furthermore, as a central location, NHSM will foster collaboration among students, scientists, and organizations that do not usually connect.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share my support for your pending legislation.

Sincerely,



Stephen P. Panossian



Fig. 1. Here I am at NHSM's Mammoth exhibit in 2024.

Charles Davis Testimony for 2026_SB0035 and HB0173

Uploaded by: Charles Davis

Position: FAV

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support

Hearings: March 12, 2026

HB 0173 (House Bill) .Support

March 17, 2026

Charles A. Davis, M. Sci.
Trustee Emeritus, and Botany Curator of The Natural History Society of MD
1510 Bellona Avenue, Lutherville MD 21093

Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Chairs Senator Feldman, and Delegate Wells,

I'm Charles Davis, Trustee Emeritus at the Natural History Society of Maryland. I'm here to support SB0035 and HB 0173. I have been a volunteer at The Natural History Society for 40 years. I'm going to speak briefly about part of the museum most people never know about.

A museum consists of two parts. Firstly, there's the **outer** museum. That's the museum you experience when you visit. That outer museum is where samples of collections are displayed and their stories interpreted.

And then there's the **inner** museum, where collections are housed, organized, cared for, and studied. These collections-of-the-past contain irreplaceable information.

The collections are studied to answer important questions about medicine, disease, biotechnology, environmental management, conservation and wildlife studies, climate, agriculture, fisheries, pests, minerals, culture, recreation, human history, and education. The research findings from the inner museum provide the information and material for the outer museum.



These Senate and House bills benefit the inner museum and helps to address an issue that the State and the Natural History Society of Maryland have been grappling with for 97 years:

Because Maryland doesn't have a state-designated repository, many types of natural science collections--like this sample from one person's collection of 17,000 butterflies and moths—often are lost and abandoned. We were able to obtain this one, but only at the last minute—because at the end-of-ones-life things like these personal collections are the items that executors and relatives say, “Well, what are we going to do with this?” And because we don't have a prominent state-designated repository, these amazing collections of often end up in landfills—and thereby lost to all their potential societal values.

The state designation will increase our visibility and will increase the likelihood that collections like these—and the information they contain—are conserved to become part of Maryland's natural heritage.

These are some of the benefits of the Senate Bill 0035 and House Bill 0173.

Testimony Senate Joint Resolution 3.pdf

Uploaded by: Diane Teichert

Position: FAV

I testify today before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee in support of the Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings: Senate Joint Resolution 3.

My seven years of experience with the all-volunteer, county-wide, non-profit Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project brings me to present this testimony. PGC LMP's Mission is to **educate** the public on the truths of our nation's continuing legacy of the institution of slavery and its impact on enslaved persons and their descendants, **memorialize** victims of racial terror lynchings in our county, and **advance** the cause of racial justice and reconciliation through mutual support and collaboration.

Our work brings me in contact with descendants of the victims of the county's four documented racial terror lynchings and of their neighbors. As a White person, I deeply believe apologies are necessary for our Mission to succeed. Meaningful apologies are good for our souls and for our relationships. They are necessary first steps, after which reparative actions must be taken to address the harms to those particular families and communities, and to move systemically toward justice and equality in all spheres of our public lives. These recommendations are impactfully presented in the in the Final Report of your Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Please support this very first step, the Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings.

Remember your childhood: when you grabbed a toy from your sibling, your parents insisted that you apologize, right? But your "I'm sorry" was insufficient, correct? Then you had to return the toy! It is too late for the return of lost lives, relationships and property, but it is not too late to apologize and then to make concrete amends. Please support Senate Joint Resolution 3.

Sincerely,

Rev. Diane Teichert

Minister Emerita, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
Co-chair, Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project

SB 35_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kayenda Twesigye

Position: FAV

KATHERINE A. KLAUSMEIER
County Executive



PAM KASEMEYER
Director of Government Affairs

BRAD KRONER
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

KAYENDA TWESIGYE
State Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: SB 35
TITLE: State Designations – State Natural Science Museum – Natural Society of Maryland
SPONSOR: Senator Jackson
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy and the Environment
POSITION: **SUPPORT**
DATE: March 12, 2026

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 35 – State Designations – State Natural Science Museum – Natural Society of Maryland. This bill will designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State natural science museum.

Since the Natural History Society’s move in 2006 to 6908 Belair Road in Overlea, Baltimore County, it remains an important educational resource and community development lynchpin. The Society offers a range of activities from a neighborhood nature hike, a workshop on butterflies, a plant identification course, and anything in between. The society strives to bring educational and engaging nature-based opportunities to communities, schools, and families.

They offer educational programs every year, including in-person lectures and tours, with dedicated staff and experts who are passionate about their craft. The Natural History Society has been a cornerstone for communities and should be recognized for the educational insight it provides to the public.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 35 from the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. For more information, contact State Legislative Officer, Kayenda Twesigye at ktwesigye@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB 0035, Letter of Support from Dr. Stephen Godfre

Uploaded by: Stephen Godfrey

Position: FAV

SB 0035 (Senate Bill) Support March 12, 2026

March 10, 2026

From: Stephen J. Godfrey Ph.D.
Curator of Paleontology, Maryland Center for Paleontology Collections and Research,
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, Maryland
Home address: 2710 Hatteras Lane, Lusby, Maryland 20657

To: Senator Brian J Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To the Honorable Senator Brian J Feldman,

I write in support of SB0035 (sponsored by Senator Jackson) and its companion bill HB 0173 (sponsored by Delegate Allen). These bills would designate the Natural History Society of Maryland as the State's official Natural Science Museum.

I have known members of the senior staff (whom I think are and have always been volunteers) at the Natural History Society of Maryland for more than 25 years! Their individual and collective passion for the natural sciences is second to none. The breadth and number/frequency of public programs they host never ceases to amaze me. Honestly, I don't know how they do so much with virtually no funding.

I am surprised that Maryland does not already have an official Natural Sciences Museum, given the importance of collecting and preserving examples of the diversity of organisms that call Maryland home. Members of the Natural History Society are not content to just house collections...those collections form the basis of the majority of the public educational programs for which they are so well known! We cannot afford to neglect educating upcoming generations on the importance of our natural world. Our survival depends on it.

As a Ph.D. paleontologist and educator based at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland, I have assisted the Natural History Society of Maryland, on a volunteer basis, with the development of some of their fossil-related exhibits. I have also spoken on many occasions to the enthusiastic members of their fossil club!

The designation as the State's official Natural Sciences Museum would help garner the support they need to continue to grow and preserve the hundreds of thousands of specimens highlighting Maryland's diverse and fascinating natural history.

Many thanks for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Godfrey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen J. Godfrey