

Name: Elizabeth Scott Shatto, Executive Director



Organization: Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

Issue: SB0226

Position: Favorable

Date: January 27, 2026, Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB0226. The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is in favor of this administrative bill. It drops reference to matching funds for Maryland Heritage Area Program grants. We understand that match requirements may be established but won't be directed by statute.

This year, the General Assembly will have additional opportunity to support the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. Together, Maryland's 13 heritage areas bring about economic benefit to the tune: \$2.4 billion in economic contribution, 40,000 jobs supported and sustained, \$320 million in local and state tax revenues generated annually.

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Every action that supports the Maryland Heritage Areas program supports economic growth for Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of SB0226.

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