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Economic Matters Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Testimony for HB 180: State Government - State Song for Children - “The Land Mary-land”

Good afternoon Madam Chair, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the committee. I am Del. Brian Crosby and it's an honor to present House Bill 180 entitled **State Government - State Song for Children - “The Land Mary-land.”**

This bill is to designate the song “The Land Mary-land” by Tom Wisner as the State Children’s Song. The current State song, “Maryland, My Maryland” by James Ryder will continue to hold its title for the purpose of historical preservation. I’m not here to dispute the State song. I’m not here to change it. “Maryland, My Maryland” was written in 1861-- needless to say, things have changed. The song “The Land Mary-land” would provide our children with a song that is more contemporaneous, more fun, and more representative of their understanding and experience of our state.

Establishing “The Land, Maryland” as the Maryland State Children’s Song would also honor the life and work of one of Maryland’s great environmentalists, teachers, and folk artists. From years of working with children, Tom Wisner understands that songs help shape our values and that they help make us who we are. His song captures a sense of community, a message of hope, and Marylander pride.

For these reasons, I urge this committee to provide a favorable report on HB 180.