



# CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

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## **Written Testimony**

Bill Number/Title: HB 1133 / Tree Planting – Urban Trees Program and Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings  
Committee: Environmental and Transportation  
Hearing: February 24, 2021  
Position: Favorable

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is a tri-state legislative commission created by law in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia to advise the members of the three general assemblies on matters of watershed-wide concern. Its fundamental purpose is to assist each assembly and the U.S. Congress to develop legislation and policies that foster the collaborative and practical restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

### **Position**

The Commission supports HB 1133. Trees provide innumerable benefits critical to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, such as rainwater filtration and carbon sequestration, while providing habitat for living resources. Additionally, for too long, environmental programs have ignored restoration in underserved communities.

HB 1133 would create a well-defined program to address both these concerns using the proven grant-making skills of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. And by leveraging other sources of funding, the economic value of the program would far exceed the state's investment. This would result in a win-win for both the Bay and our urban communities.

The proposed Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings would have an important role in guiding the tree-planting program, and perhaps more importantly, would work to develop policies to further leverage the value of the urban tree planting program and incentivize additional tree planting through the carbon offset market.