



TESTIMONY FOR HB1133
TREE PLANTING – URBAN TREES PROGRAM AND COMMISSION FOR THE
INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF CARBON MARKETS AND SUSTAINABLE
TREE PLANTINGS

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Brooks

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1133 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Carbon capture is an important element in reducing greenhouse gases. Trees and green spaces in urban settings also help clean the air by absorbing odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark. Communities that have suffered from fossil fuel infrastructure and the damaging effects of air pollution from them are in need of simple solutions that will help mitigate the problem.

This bill would create an urban tree planting program that would require planting of 500,000 sustainable, native species of trees in underserved urban areas that have suffered the most from fossil fuel pollutants. The Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Department of the Environment will manage the program, using funds from the Bay Restoration Fund.

Our members support the investment that we would be making in our underserved urban areas, and the investment in greenhouse gas reduction, which would help us meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets. This bill recognizes that those in underserved areas should get the most benefit from our environmental remediation policies.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.