



February 22, 2021

Written Testimony for [HB1133](#)- Tree Planting – Urban Trees Program and Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings

Position: Favorable

Submitted by Denisse Guitarra

Maryland Conservation Advocate, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)

Dear House Environment and Transportation Committee,

For 124 years, Audubon Naturalist Society has inspired people to enjoy, learn about and protect nature. We thank the Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB1133. ANS supports HB1133.

This legislation proposes the best nature-based solution to combat climate change, planting 500,000 native sustainable trees by 2030. Trees provide countless ecological services such as flood prevention, carbon sequestration, air and water purification, and reduction of urban heat island effects. These services cannot easily be replaced by built infrastructure, and it will always be much more expensive to try to do so. Furthermore, these 500,000 trees would be planted in underserved urban communities across the state. It is critical to plant more trees in urban centers to mitigate the “heat island effect,” which is only being worsened as the climate changes. Passing HB1133 will be critical to help create more resilient communities around the state, in both these urban areas and elsewhere. Additionally, this legislation calls for the creation a commission with a broad group of stakeholders which will study the carbon benefits and serve as support for more urban trees in the future.

On behalf of ANS and our 28,000 members and supporters, we recommend that the House Environment and Transportation Committee support the passage of HB1133.

Sincerely,

Denisse Guitarra

Maryland Conservation Advocate

Audubon Naturalist Society

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