



HB1133
Favorable

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights supports HB **1133** as contributing toward the reversal of inequities in urban tree cover throughout Maryland and as furthering the establishment of a Maryland-based carbon offset market to support more tree plantings.

Through my years working at the Baltimore Orchard Project, I learned and saw the many benefits of planting trees in urban environments.

Tree plantings in underserved areas address longstanding inequities

- This legislation's 500,000 tree planting goal for underserved urban communities could help reverse inequities through addressing urban heat island effect, delivering improved health and mental health outcomes, and increasing property values and social connections
- Urban trees are proven to be one of the most cost-effective water quality filters, cleaning streams and rivers, and creating a healthy environment for marine life. This protects the health and safety of those who swim and fish from local waterways

Trees capture carbon and deliver a host of co-benefits

- Trees capture carbon and deliver a host of co-benefits including serving as one of the most cost-effective natural filters of polluted runoff
- The Commission established in HB 1133 will design a tree planting plan to mitigate heat deserts, maximize water quality, air quality, and carbon sequestration.
- Native trees also provide essential habitat for wildlife.

A Maryland-based carbon offset market could support additional tree plantings after the expiration of this bill

- This bill envisions a Commission that would draw on existing expertise to develop a plan for establishing a carbon offset market in Maryland
- A carbon offset market could help support additional tree plantings by drawing on private investment

We urge your support of HB 1133 and the Committee's favorable report.

Nina Beth Cardin
Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

