



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein  
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1133 – Tree Planting – Urban Trees Program and Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings***

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources provides the following information on House Bill 1133. This bill creates a new State goal of planting and maintaining 500,000 trees by 2030. The Chesapeake Bay Trust will administer the Urban Trees Program and provide grants to qualified organizations for tree planting projects in underserved areas. MDE's Bay Restoration Fund will provide \$10 million in funding each year to the Chesapeake Bay Trust toward the new goal.

Currently, Maryland is committed to participating in two different watershed-wide tree planting goals of 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffers and 2,400 acres of urban tree canopy through the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Additionally, meeting our larger Chesapeake Bay restoration and greenhouse gas reduction goals involve a wide array of tree planting practices. The Maryland Department of the Environment's recently released 2030 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act Plan provides for the planting of 7.25 million trees including 2.65 million urban trees. The Chesapeake Bay Program currently recognizes and tracks 10 different tree planting best management practices all with different units of measure and outcomes. It is challenging to meet and track the already crowded field of existing goals let alone new mandates. Adding another large-scale goal will have the result of confusing and hindering Maryland's continuing tree planting and maintenance programs and progress.

Thank you for allowing the department to provide the above information on HB 1133 for the committee's careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director, Legislative and Constituent Services

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