



7338 Baltimore Ave  
Suite 102  
College Park, MD 20740

**Committee: Environment & Transportation**

**Testimony on: HB 458 – “Program Open Space – Local Projects – Visitor Behavior Policies”**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: February 3, 2021**

The Maryland Sierra Club supports HB 458, a bill that would address a side effect of the growing appreciation for Maryland parklands: trespassing, littering, and other inappropriate behavior in the parks.

Specifically, this bill will require counties to produce their own publicly distributed policy on park behavior to address important issues such as staying on trails to prevent erosion, refraining from carving on trees, refraining from feeding wildlife, and trail courtesy such as yielding safely. This bill is consistent with stewardship activities and citizen science.

Previous research documents that well-crafted information on good park behavior is much more effective than no signs or poorly-worded signs.<sup>1</sup> With increasing use of public parks, employing evidence-based policy on park information and instructions will improve the usability and beauty of our parks.

We urge a favorable report for this bill.

Lily Fountain  
Chair, Natural Places Committee  
Maryland Sierra Club  
lily.fountain@mdsierra.org

Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

---

<sup>1</sup> Winter, P. L. (2008). Park signs and visitor behavior: A research summary. *Park Science*, 25 (1), 34–35.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has approximately 800,000 members.