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*County Executive*

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**BILL NO.: HB 1133**

**TITLE:** Tree Planting – Urban Trees Program and Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Bridges

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** February 24, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1133 – Tree Planting – Urban Trees Program and Commission for the Innovation and Advancement of Carbon Markets and Sustainable Tree Plantings. This legislation would support and encourage tree-planting efforts, with a goal of planting and helping to maintain in the State 500,000 sustainable trees in underserved areas by the end of 2030.

Trees are one of nature’s best methods to maintain climate, limit levels of CO2 in the air and generate a healthy environment. Baltimore County Executive Olszewski understands that climate change is no longer an issue to be cast aside and that leaders must take bold action to mitigate the impacts of greenhouse emissions. Planting trees and reforestation urban areas is one of the most effective ways to work toward greener government.

House Bill 1133 sets out the ambitious goal of planting 500,000 trees in Maryland by 2030 primarily in areas that experience disproportionate underinvestment from the State. In addition to tracking the progression of tree planting, this legislation would also make available funding for local forestation efforts. The County’s ongoing efforts to plant urban trees and continue investing in underserved communities are limited due to funding, staff availability, and specific requirements under existing state laws. This will provide the county an opportunity to pursue more funding for tree planting efforts already underway.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1133. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).