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**BILL NO.:** **SB 791**

**TITLE:** Natural Resources - Land Conservation - Establishment of Goals and Programs (Maryland the Beautiful Act)

**SPONSOR:** Senator Elfreth

**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** March 9, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 791 - Natural Resources - Land Conservation - Establishment of Goals and Programs (Maryland the Beautiful Act). This legislation would set conservation goals for State and Local land and establishes funding to support local conservation efforts.

The ability to enjoy outdoor parks and open space is a fundamental right of every Maryland resident. Land conservation brings innumerable benefits to communities by enhancing green spaces in underserved areas, and generally encouraging Marylanders to engage in outdoor recreational activity. This is why since taking office, Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski has aggressively pursued the acquisition of open space across the County, prioritizing accessibility of parks and recreational space for all communities.

Senate Bill 791 lays a clear path forward for local land conservation through the Local Land Trust Revolving Loan Program, which would finance conservation projects when access to Program Open Space funding proves difficult. The bill's ambitious conservation goals would also further the County's efforts to preserve and protect green spaces for residents across the County and State to enjoy.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 791. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).