



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 783

TITLE: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

SPONSOR: Senator Smith

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: SUPPORT

DATE: March 9, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights. This legislation would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to establish citizen's rights to a healthful and sustainable environment.

Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski has taken numerous steps to preserve and protect the environment for all County residents through the aggressive acquisition of open space, creating the position of Chief Sustainability Officer position to ensure all local actions receive environmental consideration, working to reforest the County through the Tree Equity Initiative and supporting the movement towards a sustainable future. The County recognizes that significant investments in combatting climate change now will save lives and mitigate potentially irreparable disasters down the road.

Senate Bill 783 proposes a constitutional amendment establishing that all citizens have a fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment. This amendment would also require the State to serve as the trustee of the State's natural resources to further ensure their maintenance and protection. If passed, this amendment would be placed on the 2022 General Election ballot. The voters of Maryland have a right to decide whether the right of every resident to enjoy a healthful environment should be enshrined in their State's constitution.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 783. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.