CORY V. McCray Legislative District 45 Baltimore City

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Budget and Taxation Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 601

Baltimore City Soil Conservation District - Establishment - Requirements

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 601. Establishing a soil conservation district in Baltimore City will bolster environmental sustainability efforts, restore natural resources, and provide new opportunities for the constituents of the City to impact and interact more with their environment.

In working to protect Maryland's natural habitats and bring forth new environmentally friendly opportunities, I propose Senate Bill 601. Under this bill, there is instruction to establish a soil conservation district within the boundaries of Baltimore City. Inasmuch, Senate Bill 601 sets requirements and provides directives to the Mayor of Baltimore City and Secretary of State—with special regards to the creation, record, organization, and other housekeeping details necessary to properly establish and supervise the district.

Establishing a soil conservation district in the City of Baltimore opens the doors to a plethora of positive possibilities—for the environment and the district's constituents. It is an investment into the future, as well as an opportunity to make an impact today. This initiative is one step that will benefit our environment, economy, and quality of life.

If enacted, Senate Bill 601 will take effect on October 1, 2022, and will require the adoption of new practices in accordance with the change in law.

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 601.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory V. McCray State Senator, 45th District