

Environment and Transportation Committee of the House

Testimony on: HB0884 State Conservation Land - Old-Growth Forests - Protection

Submitting: Catherine Plaisant

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: 2.25.2022

To the Honorable Chair Barve and all members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing in favor of HB0884 because old-growth forests are vitally important for biodiversity and the future of our environment. Beside the more well-know benefits of the trees, unique plant and animal communities have co-evolved with old forests. Those communities are often unique to individual forests and cannot be recreated, their loss cannot be mitigated.

I believe that Maryland should formally preserve the old-growth forests on its public lands, and encourage private owners to do the same. It can also pressure the federal government to preserve the many wild lands it owns in Maryland.

This bill will formalize protection for old-growth forests owned by the State of Maryland, so future generations can still benefit from them.

I recommend a favorable report on this important bill.

Sincerely,

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