



Secular Maryland

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The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: FAVORABLE HB0015 Invasive and Native Plants - Classification, Listing, Use, and Sales and Use Tax

Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

This bill requires that each entity that receives State funding and each State agency prioritize the use of plants native to the State and exempts the sale of plants native to the State from the sales and use tax.

A native plant is one which likely had a presence within our state prior to European settlement. Our native wildlife evolved with the plants here, some can only feed on plants they co-evolved with. Native plants supply food for insects and wildlife that are food for other wildlife. They also provide wildlife habitat more generally (cover and places to rear their young). Native plants are well adapted to our climate and soils and as a result are generally easier to grow and easier to maintain, needing little or no pruning, deadheading, watering, or fertilizing. Please vote for this bill.