



March 1, 2023

Senate Bill 470

**Natural Resources - Land Conservation - Establishment of Goals and Programs
(Maryland the Beautiful Act)
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

Position: SUPPORT

The Maryland the Beautiful Act will establish land conservation goals for the State, and create financing structures, including grant and loan programs, to help meet those goals.

Anne Arundel County shares the legislature's commitment to preserving our natural resources and supporting and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities. This commitment took on new importance during the pandemic, as public use of and demand for parks and open space increased dramatically. Every Marylander deserves the ability to enjoy outdoor parks and open spaces.

With nearly 50 active capital projects in its six year plan, the County Department of Recreation and Parks continues to create public spaces that enhance our health and connect us to nature. We are creating better park access for people with disabilities, transforming the idea of a county-wide trail network from a concept to reality, and investing in water access projects. Our goal is to provide a diverse range of accessible recreational facilities and programs to serve the needs of all County residents.

This landmark legislation will preserve the irreplaceable natural, historical, and cultural sites that we all treasure. For these reasons, Anne Arundel County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 470.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart Pittman".

Stuart Pittman
County Executive