



*Forming Faithful Stewards,
Caring for Sacred Waters*

PO Box 6791
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Maryland the Beautiful Act
Senate Bill 470
FAVORABLE**

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation
Maryland Senate
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Jim Rosapepe
Vice Chair, Budget and Taxation
Maryland Senate
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, I write to urge your support for the Maryland the Beautiful Act (SB 470) to advance this bill favorably from committee.

We, along with the attached list of 225 people of faith who live or worship in Maryland, the Earth and the web of life, and strive to be good stewards of the Earth's land and waters. We are grateful for the ways the Maryland Assembly has worked to protect our environment, but more needs to be done to create a healthier Bay for future generations.

Greenspaces benefit humans' physical, mental, and spiritual health. However, not all Marylanders have easy access to greenspaces. Likewise, many greenspaces are and will continue to be subject to threat of development that could diminish biodiversity. At present, Maryland has permanently conserved just under 30% of its total lands and critical habitats (~24% of land and water) and only annually monitors ~11% of land under easement. This bill sets a conservation goal of 40% of Maryland lands permanently protected by 2040, while also developing a plan for implementation, stewardship, and improved the health of the land.

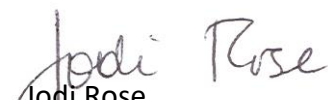
These measures also strengthen Maryland's strategies for fighting climate change, something we are woefully underprepared for and are called upon to act now for future generations' health and well being. Preserving land in perpetuity is a key strategy for fighting climate change, because when land is preserved it sinks carbon and creates resilient ecosystems that are otherwise lost if the land is developed. Bolstered funds in the Citizen Stewardship Grant, also included in the Maryland the Beautiful Act, will increase funding to school programs that help develop the next generation of conservation leaders. The Maryland the Beautiful Act is an

investment in our lands and Maryland youth, ensuring that future Marylanders will be able to enjoy the bountiful beauty of Maryland.

Importantly, this bill increases the capacity of small and medium under-resourced land trusts to engage in conservation. The Maryland the Beautiful Act would create a one-time funded \$9.5M Land Trust Rapid Response Revolving Loan Fund Program that will enable land trusts to compete for land acquisition for conservation purposes in an ever-competitive real estate market. **This Fund would tip the scale in David-and-Goliath situations where these land trusts may otherwise be unable to secure and protect land from development.** Uplifting these land trusts rebalances power in the face of climate change and keeps Maryland focused on a future where all people can thrive.

We are all called to continually renew ourselves and improve our behaviors to be more mindful of future generations. This is important legislation that will enhance and protect Maryland's biodiversity, invest in future generations of Marylanders, empower more Maryland land trusts to conserve land, and remind our state leaders for years to come that nothing is more important than preserving greenspace in perpetuity so that all may thrive here. As the Dalai Lama says, "Since climate change and the global economy now affect us all, we have to develop a sense of the oneness of humanity." As people of faith, we hope that you will take this step to conserve Maryland's land and invest in Maryland's youth, for it is one small step in uniting humanity to preserve the dignity and health of us all.

Sincerely,


Jodi Rose
Executive Director

First Name	Last Name	City	County	State	Denomination, if declared
Albert	Todd	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD	Episcopal Church
Nancy	Plaxico	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Rita	Ferry	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD	Roman Catholic
Amy	Clements	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD	
Diane	Rey	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Catherine	Stirling	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD	
Safiyyaah	Tauheed	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD	
Elizabeth	Knupp	Davidsonville	Anne Arundel	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Lauren	Bloom	Edgewater	Anne Arundel	MD	Episcopal Church
Lenny	Rudow	Edgewater	Anne Arundel	MD	
Gloria	Rosencranz	Millersville	Anne Arundel	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Ruth	Stumpfohl	Pasadena	Anne Arundel	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Kraven	Sweitzer	Pasadena	Anne Arundel	MD	
Robert	Royer	Severna Park	Anne Arundel	MD	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Mary	Vogelsang		Anne Arundel	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Raymond	Heil	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Elizabeth	Miller	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	
Joy	Brown	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Marcia	Metzler	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	
Rose Marie	Hellmann	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	
Laurence	Fogelson	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	
Bernadette	Krol	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	
Kathy	Gross	Catonsville	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Carel	Hedlund	Cockeysville	Baltimore	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Barbara	Miyasaki	Cockeysville	Baltimore	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Susan	Meier	Hunt Valley	Baltimore	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Rita	McMullin	Lutherville	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Dennis	McMullin	Lutherville	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Donna	Eden	Lutherville Timonium	Baltimore	MD	Episcopal Church
Paul	Waldman	Monkton	Baltimore	MD	
Natalie	Johnson	Nottingham	Baltimore	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Cynthia	Taylor	Owings Mills	Baltimore	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Ann	Vinup	Parkville	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Katherine	Martin	Perry Hall	Baltimore	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Cecilia	Rund	Reisterstown	Baltimore	MD	Jewish-Reform
Mary Catherine	Bunting	Ruxton	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Glenn	Wells	Timonium	Baltimore	MD	
Stuart	Stainman	Towson	Baltimore	MD	Jewish-Conservative
Peta	Richkus	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
Patty	Mochel	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
Ann	Snoeyenbos	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
cora	middleton	Towson	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Carlton	Sexton	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
Patricia	Murphy	Towson	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Rita	Bueche	Towson	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Mary Ellen	Pease	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
William	Reamy	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
Kathleen	Brady	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
Roland	Oehme	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
Kirsten	Hoffman	Towson	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Diane	Topper	Towson	Baltimore	MD	
Leo	Fenzel	White Marsh	Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Joseph	Wright		Baltimore	MD	Presbyterian
Eloise	Brown		Baltimore	MD	Roman Catholic
Rev. Albert K., III	Lane	Lusby	Calvert	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Cairn	Krafft	Owings	Calvert	MD	Quaker
Kathryn	Dangin	Owings	Calvert	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Susan	Vilcheck	Owings	Calvert	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Davin	Faris		Carroll	MD	
Linda	Hunt	Elkton	Cecil	MD	Episcopal Church

First Name	Last Name	City	County	State	Denomination, if declared
Marc And Alice	Imlay		Charles	MD	
Mollie	Rudow	Eldorado	Dorchester	MD	
Leah	Mack	Bridge	Frederick	MD	
Esther	Ziegler	Frederick	Frederick	MD	United Church of Christ
Linda	Coyle	Frederick	Frederick	MD	United Church of Christ
Gerald	Fuss	Frederick	Frederick	MD	United Church of Christ
Shelley	Weakly	Frederick	Frederick	MD	United Church of Christ
Barbara	Schectman	Frederick	Frederick	MD	
Kerri	Hesley	Frederick	Frederick	MD	
Patricia	Bodine	Frederick	Frederick	MD	Roman Catholic
Patricia	Cahaney	Frederick	Frederick	MD	Roman Catholic
Marianne	Dacey	Frederick	Frederick	MD	Roman Catholic
Suzanne	Schmidt	Frederick	Frederick	MD	United Church of Christ
Susan	Johnson	Frederick	Frederick	MD	
Sandra	Smith-Gill	Frederick	Frederick	MD	
mary ann c.	ford	Frederick	Frederick	MD	
Gwen	Austin	Frederick	Frederick	MD	
Kathleen	Rall	Jefferson	Frederick	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Lorraine	Blakeslee	Jefferson	Frederick	MD	
Janet	Fox	Middletown	Frederick	MD	
Clare	Archer	Mount Airy	Frederick	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Michael	Peterson	Myersville	Frederick	MD	Roman Catholic
Victoria	Bolton	Woodsboro	Frederick	MD	Quaker
Daniel	Davis		Frederick	MD	United Church of Christ
Josh	Hastings	Forest Hill	Harford	MD	
kathy	younkin	Columbia	Howard	MD	Roman Catholic
Susannah	Feldman	Columbia	Howard	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Sharon	Unger	Columbia	Howard	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Sheila	Robinson	Columbia	Howard	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Dara	Baker	Columbia	Howard	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
John	Barnes	Elkridge	Howard	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Ron	Gunderson	Ellicott City	Howard	MD	Presbyterian
Bonnie	Sorak	Ellicott City	Howard	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Barbara	Winter Watson	Ellicott City	Howard	MD	Roman Catholic
Ann	Clark-Whitlock	Ellicott City	Howard	MD	Roman Catholic
Margaret	Burrows	Ellicott City	Howard	MD	Episcopal Church
Liz	Feighner	Laurel	Howard	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Wendy	Hall		Howard	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Rebekah	Hock	Chestertown	Kent	MD	
nanci	wilkinson	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Amy	Yount	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD	
Fred Scherlinder	Dobb	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Ronnie	Brown	Burtonsville	Montgomery	MD	
Lee	McNair	Chevy Chase	Montgomery	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Mary	Kolle	Derwood	Montgomery	MD	Episcopal Church
Gail	Landy	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD	Jewish-Reform
Janet	King	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD	Episcopal Church
Gail	Unterberger	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD	Episcopal Church
Laurie-Anne	Sayles	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD	Baptist-American
Megan	Didavi	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD	Episcopal Church
Mary	Rouse	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD	
Ruth Anna	Skowronski	Germantown	Montgomery	MD	Episcopal Church
Laurie	Yelle	Germantown	Montgomery	MD	
Kenzie	Raulin	Kensington	Montgomery	MD	United Methodist Church (UMC)
Carolyn	Knight	Olney	Montgomery	MD	
sylvia	diss	Potomac	Montgomery	MD	Roman Catholic
Alison	Bennett	Potomac	Montgomery	MD	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Linda	Silversmith	Rockville	Montgomery	MD	Other-Not Listed Elsewhere
Jodi	Rose	Rockville	Montgomery	MD	Roman Catholic
Johanna	Wermers	Rockville	Montgomery	MD	

First Name	Last Name	City	County	State	Denomination, if declared
Mark	Wright	Rockville	Montgomery	MD	Episcopal Church
Reba	Carruth	Rockville	Montgomery	MD	Baha'i' Faith
Evelyn	Jacob	Rockville	Montgomery	MD	
Joelle	Novey	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	Jewish-Unaffiliated
Alison	Petersen	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	United Church of Christ
William	Dinges	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	Roman Catholic
Maureen	Malloy	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Rebecca	Rehr	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	Jewish-Reform
Michele	Frome	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	Other-Not Listed Elsewhere
Heidi	Rhodes	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	
Kathryn	Kevany	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	
Cathy	Henderson	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD	
Kolya	Braun-Greiner	Takoma Park	Montgomery	MD	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Marilyn	Wind		Montgomery	MD	
Paul	Holmes		Montgomery	MD	
ellen	turner		Montgomery	MD	
Michael	Bloom	Berwyn Heights	Prince George's	MD	Jewish-Reform
Monica	Greene	Bowie	Prince George's	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Jesica	Jacobs	Bowie	Prince George's	MD	
Joyce	Dowling	Brandywine	Prince George's	MD	
Kurt	Pluntke	Colmar Manor	Prince George's	MD	Other-Evangelical Protestant (Non-denominational)
Judith	Rubinstein	Greenbelt	Prince George's	MD	Jewish-Conservative
Heidi	Hess-Webber	Laurel	Prince George's	MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Sandra	Miller	Unit X Greenbelt	Prince George's	MD	Other-Not Listed Elsewhere
CAtherine	Tengwall	Grasonville	Queen Anne's	MD	Roman Catholic
Richard	Yobst	Marion Station	Somerset	MD	
Annabel	Leshner	Easton	Talbot	MD	Lutheran-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Debbie	Satorius	Knoxville	Washington	MD	Roman Catholic
Elizabeth	Parker	Delmar	Wicomico	MD	Unitarian Universalist
Farah	Yahya	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD	Islam
Frieda L	Malcolm	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD	Episcopal Church
Ron	Pagano JD	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD	
James	Cockey	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD	Episcopal Church
Cheryl	Lang	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD	
Mary	Harrison	Ocean City	Worcester	MD	
Bethany	Gregg	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Louise	Gregg	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Martha	Ruffin	Baltimore		MD	Episcopal Church
peggy	meyer	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Adrienne	Yoe	Baltimore		MD	
John	Moore	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Jill	Huppert	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
John	Schmidt	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Jan	Danforth	Baltimore		MD	Unitarian Universalist
Therese	Dougherty	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Raymond	Chase	Baltimore		MD	
Sandy Lee	Triolo	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Lynn	Pinder	Baltimore		MD	Baptist-Other
Christina	Pham Linhoff	Baltimore		MD	
Ruwaydah	Amin	Baltimore		MD	
Susan	Woodman	Baltimore		MD	
Peter	Gregg	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Barbara	Bowles	Baltimore		MD	
Angelia	Caro	Baltimore		MD	
Santiago	Duques	Baltimore		MD	
Geraldine	Fialkowski	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Katie	Little	Baltimore		MD	Roman Catholic
Eneshal	Miller	Beltsville		MD	AME (African Methodist Episcopal Church)
Linda	Bergofsky	Laurel		MD	Jewish-Reconstruction
Charlie	Goedeke	Laurel		MD	Quaker

First Name	Last Name	City	County	State	Denomination, if declared
Ammar	Hanif	Odenton		MD	Islam
Delores	Moore			MD	Roman Catholic
Nancy	Gehman			MD	Mennonite
Lydia	Thomas			MD	Episcopal Church
Danielle	Allen			MD	Episcopal Church
Jessica	Lowry			MD	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Amie	LaPorte			MD	Unitarian Universalist
Lisa	Hayes			MD	Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Audrey	Rogers			MD	
John Francis	Rogers			MD	
Linda	Davis				Quaker
Laura	Melamed				
Lani	Hummel				United Methodist Church (UMC)
Debbie	Gousha				
Cynthia	Williams				
Dylan	Laconich				
Sharon	Boies				
Therese	Dougherty				
Rasheedah	Sharif				
Siddeeqah	Fichman				
Faheem	Lea				
Oswaldo	Montoya				
Marzena	Dyba				
Ellen	Mackenzie				
Laurie	wallace-Lanham				Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Katherine	Huy				
Nikole	Koterski				
Janet	Scudiero				
Dominic	Scudiero				
Karen	Stern				
Maureen	Taylor				
Laura	Byrne				
Kathleen	Hairfield				
Rosemary	Schappelle			CT	
Margaret	Moos			CT	
Bonnie	Greer	Washington		DC	
Erica	Lloyd	Washington		DC	
Holly Fluty	Dempsey	Bethany Beach	Sussex	DE	Unitarian Universalist
Hurle	Waldman		DeKalb	GA	
Donna	Dannals		Union	NJ	
Theresa	Toole		Kings	NY	
Wendy	Alberg	Ithaca	Tompkins	NY	Unitarian Universalist
Josh	Jacobs-Velde		Atoka	OK	
Rand	Tenor	Mechanicsburg	Cumberland	PA	
Cheryl	Sidwell	Avella	Spartanburg	PA	