

**Committee:** Budget and Taxation

**Testimony on:** SB0470 Natural Resources - Land Conservation - Establishment of Goals and Programs (Maryland the Beautiful Act)

**Position:** Favorable

27 February 2023

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

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports S.B.0470, the “Maryland the Beautiful Act” that requires 30% of Maryland land to be set aside for conservation by 2030 and 40% by 2040, as well as requiring creation of a series of funds and grants that would make it easier for trusts and conservation organizations to secure and monitor land for preservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this fascinating and crucial piece of legislation. My name is Teddy Jorgensen, and I am a freshman with the University of Maryland Student Government Association’s Sustainability Council. On behalf of our SGA, as well as environmentally concerned students everywhere, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 470 in order to secure a greener and more enjoyable future for Marylanders everywhere.

I have grown up in Maryland’s woods, wetlands, and waterways, camping both with the Scouts BSA and recreationally since before I can remember. As I both fell in love with the natural world and became increasingly worried about its future in an age of global warming and suburban sprawl, I decided to major in Environmental Science and Policy at UMD to help be part of the solution. I believe that giving our natural land the respect and protection it deserves should be one of our state’s highest priorities. The recent federal call to preserve 30% of our nation’s lands by 2030 is a commendable one, but I know that my “America in Miniature” can go above and beyond: both the additional goal of 40% conservation by 2040 and the series of funds and grant programs allocated to conservation under this bill will help transform Maryland into a state where sustainable development and pristine outdoor amenities can go hand in hand. One day, my generation’s children will grow up continuing to enjoy the same camping and hiking that I did, all thanks to the passage of the Maryland the Beautiful Act, and thus I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0470.

Thank you,



*Teddy Jorgensen, Sustainability Committee Member  
University of Maryland — College Park,  
fjorgens@terpmail.umd.edu*