



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal  
Public Policy  
Network

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0470**  
**The Maryland the Beautiful Act**  
**\*\*FAVORABLE\*\***

**TO: Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, and Al Todd, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland**  
**DATE: March 1, 2023**

The growing awareness of environmental crisis has compelled the Episcopal Church to examine the human relationship with the environment. We believe that it is the role of humanity to preserve the environment. In Genesis, God made the Earth and then created human beings and gave them a role of stewardship in relation to the rest of creation. God commissions us to sustain and protect His creation. In Jesus, God so loved the world. We follow Jesus, so we love the world God loves. We recognize that the love and care we give to the environment that sustains us is a direct reflection of our love and care for each other. Concerned for the global climate emergency the loss of species, and the degradation of air and water, we draw on diverse approaches to protect, restore, and sustain loving, liberating, life-giving relationships with all of Creation. It is indeed our moral obligation.

The Episcopal Church and the Maryland Diocese have embraced this moral obligation of creation care and have established programs to support our congregations in this work. This Bill provides a holistic approach to conservation of nature by setting aside and protecting healthy ecosystems that produce clean air and water, important habitats, and enrichment of our lives. The Maryland the Beautiful Act does not mitigate damage but rather sets aside from damage a portion of the land and waters that improve our health and quality of life and can sustain us in the future.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable outcome for this bill.

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