

## Testimony in Favor of SB 923 & HB 503

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

I will be short because I know you have a lot on your plates. I am Leslie Wharton, a long-time Maryland resident, and a leader in the Maryland Chapter of Elders Climate Action. I and my Elders Climate Action colleagues strongly support passage of the Greenspace Equity Program, Bill SB 923 with adjustments to conform with HB 503. This bill is essential to preserving Maryland's ecology, by helping to fund greenspace projects like new pocket parks or community gardens in Maryland's underserved communities. I personally have the luxury of living in a greenspace and it makes all the difference for my physical health and mental well-being. All Maryland residents deserve the same.

Thank you,

Leslie Wharton  
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