



Regarding SB0526: Forest Preservation and Retention  
Submitted by Renée Hamidi, executive director of The Valleys Planning Council  
March 1, 2023  
**Favorable**

The Valleys Planning Council supports enacting the forestry management reforms in SB 0426.

Changing the State's policy of achieving no net loss of forest to increasing the acreage of land that is forest land or covered by tree canopy clearly shows how important forest land is to the state.

Reducing the number of contiguous acres of woodland to place land in the Forest Conservation and Management Program will encourage more landowners to take advantage of the program.

Requiring land used for electricity generation facilities abide by the Forest Conservation Act ensures that these projects will be held to the same standards as other kinds of development.

The Valleys Planning Council is a community organization dedicated to conserving land and resources, preserving historic character and maintaining the rural feel and land uses in northwestern Baltimore county.