

March 1, 2023

SB836 Maryland Native Plants Program--FAVORABLE

Sponsor: Sen. Ben Brooks

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (EEE)

Hearing date and time: March 2, 2023 1:00pm

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am writing my first letter of testimony to the MGA because the Maryland Native Plant Program gives me hope for Maryland's future and preserving our natural heritage in addition to our food supply and biodiversity. As a homeowner in Maryland for over 15 years, I have become frustrated by the lack of information on native plants, and quite honestly, confused about what is best to plant in my yard and where to find it. I have searched several web sites—the Maryland Extension and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources among them—and while there is a plethora of information available at my fingertips, it is not easy to sort through and find suitable plants to buy at my local nurseries. When I find a native plant that I would like to purchase, I often have a hard time finding it at the nurseries near my house. Herring Run Nursery has a lovely selection of native plants, but they do not have a wide selection. Furthermore, other nurseries in my area such as Valley View and Sun Nurseries carry some native plants, but every nursery has their own method to labeling, which makes it quite difficult for consumers to find them easily.

The Maryland Native Plant Program would help by providing an organized list of commercially suitable native plants for homeowners, businesses, schools, and other consumers. Furthermore, organized lists of nurseries that carry a significant array of native plants clearly labeled will make it easier for all Marylanders to plant natives, as we know we should be doing.

Thank you for supporting the Maryland Native Plant Program and all it offers to Maryland.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tobian

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