



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 28, 2023

Hon. Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, Maryland

## **RE: HB1038 FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

**Chairperson Barve,**

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1038** – a piece of legislation that has the opportunity to support and invest in our state’s history and communities.

Preservation Maryland is the statewide voice for historic preservation that works to protect the best of Maryland. Since 1931, we have worked tirelessly to protect the places, stories, and communities in Maryland that matter. (Learn more at: [presmd.org](http://presmd.org))

Preservation Maryland is supportive of the bill which has the potential to positively impact historic communities and heritage tourism community within the state. We believe that an annual appropriation of \$350,000 is not enough for tourism signage across the state. We respectfully suggest a simple amendment to increase the annual appropriations to \$1,000,000 annually, derived from the transportation trust fund. This addition would provide the heritage tourism community with the stable source of funds for signage development that is critical to guide travelers across difficult terrain, landscapes, and mark the sites of underrepresented history.

HB1038 is an innovative way of providing critical and stable funding for signage development for Maryland’s heritage tourism community. Therefore, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB1038 with our suggested amendment.

### **Favorable with Amendments**

Sincerely,

  
Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO