



*Forming Faithful Stewards,  
Caring for Sacred Waters*

PO Box 6791  
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 13, 2023

Honorable Members of the  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, we write to urge your support for the Maryland the Beautiful Act (HB 631) to advance this bill favorably from committee.

This bill is the top priority of our organization this year. It emphasizes land conservation in the context of climate resiliency, and will preserve a future for all Marylanders.

We are attaching our testimony submitted on February 20th and the signatures of over 300 people of faith who stand behind us in supporting this bill (the figure indicated in our February 20th testimony predates the current list of over 300 signatures). We urge you to vote in support of HB 631, Maryland the Beautiful Act, to pass this out of committee and bring it to a full vote on the floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Tonya Sanders".

Tonya Sanders Thach, MA, PhD, AICP  
Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jodi Rose".

Jodi Rose  
Executive Director



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PO Box 6791  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 20, 2023

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation  
Maryland House of Delegates  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein  
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation  
Maryland House of Delegates  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, I write to urge your support for the Maryland the Beautiful Act (HB 631) to advance this bill favorably from committee.

**We, along with the attached list of over 182 people of faith who live or worship in Maryland,** the Earth and the web of life, and strive to be good stewards of the Earth's land and waters. We are grateful for the ways the Maryland Assembly has worked to protect our environment, but more needs to be done to create a healthier Bay for future generations.

Greenspaces benefit humans' physical, mental, and spiritual health. However, not all Marylanders have easy access to greenspaces. Likewise, many greenspaces are and will continue to be subject to threat of development that could diminish biodiversity. At present, Maryland has permanently conserved just under 30% of its total lands and critical habitats (~24% of land and water) and only annually monitors ~11% of land under easement. This bill sets a conservation goal of 40% of Maryland lands permanently protected by 2040, while also developing a plan for implementation, stewardship, and improved the health of the land.

**These measures also strengthen Maryland's strategies for fighting climate change, something we are woefully underprepared for and are called upon to act now for future generations' health and well being.** Preserving land in perpetuity is a key strategy for fighting climate change, because when land is preserved it sinks carbon and creates resilient ecosystems that are otherwise lost if the land is developed. Bolstered funds in the Citizen Stewardship Grant, also included in the Maryland the Beautiful Act, will increase funding to school programs that help develop the next generation of conservation leaders. The Maryland the Beautiful Act is an investment in our lands and Maryland youth, ensuring that future Marylanders will be able to enjoy the bountiful beauty of Maryland.

Importantly, this bill increases the capacity of small and medium under-resourced land trusts to engage in conservation. The Maryland the Beautiful Act would create a one-time funded \$9.5M Land Trust Rapid Response Revolving Loan Fund Program that will enable land trusts to

compete for land acquisition for conservation purposes in an ever-competitive real estate market. **This Fund would tip the scale in David-and-Goliath situations where these land trusts may otherwise be unable to secure and protect land from development.** Uplifting these land trusts rebalances power in the face of climate change and keeps Maryland focused on a future where all people can thrive.

We are all called to continually renew ourselves and improve our behaviors to be more mindful of future generations. This is important legislation that will enhance and protect Maryland's biodiversity, invest in future generations of Marylanders, empower more Maryland land trusts to conserve land, and remind our state leaders for years to come that nothing is more important than preserving greenspace in perpetuity so that all may thrive here. As the Dalai Lama says, "Since climate change and the global economy now affect us all, we have to develop a sense of the oneness of humanity." As people of faith, we hope that you will take this step to conserve Maryland's land and invest in Maryland's youth, for it is one small step in uniting humanity to preserve the dignity and health of us all.

Sincerely,

  
Jodi Rose  
Executive Director

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>State</b>
Deborah	Bereznak	Millersville	Anne Arundel	MD
Lauren	Bloom	Edgewater	Anne Arundel	MD
Amy	Clements	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Beverly	Darrow	Davidsonville	Anne Arundel	MD
Julia	Erickson	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Rita	Ferry	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Nina	Fisher	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Charles	Gallegos	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Elizabeth	Knupp	Davidsonville	Anne Arundel	MD
Daniel	Konick	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Camille	Lee	Edgewater	Anne Arundel	MD
Maribeth	Love	Millersville	Anne Arundel	MD
Shane	Lowery	Mayo	Anne Arundel	MD
Hamilton	Maynard	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Caroline	Miller	Harwood	Anne Arundel	
Nancy	Plaxico	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Diane	Rey	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Gloria	Rosencranz	Millersville	Anne Arundel	MD
Karen	Royer	Severna Park	Anne Arundel	MD
Robert	Royer	Severna Park	Anne Arundel	MD
Lenny	Rudow	Edgewater	Anne Arundel	MD
Max	Rudow	Edgewater	Anne Arundel	MD
Emma	Shakan	Pasadena	Anne Arundel	MD
Dr. Wayne	Smith	Edgewater	Anne Arundel	MD
Patricia	Stewart	Glenburnie	Anne Arundel	MD
Catherine	Stirling	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Ruth	Stumpfoll	Pasadena	Anne Arundel	MD
Taylor	Swanson	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Kraven	Sweitzer	Pasadena	Anne Arundel	MD
Safiyyaah	Tauheed	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Albert	Todd	Annapolis	Anne Arundel	MD
Kathleen	Treacy	Arnold	Anne Arundel	MD
Mary	Vogelsang		Anne Arundel	MD
Hannah	Yale	Arnold	Anne Arundel	MD
Josh	Jacobs-Velde		Atoka	OK
Kathleen	Brady	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Joy	Brown	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Eloise	Brown		Baltimore	MD
Rita	Bueche	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Mary Catherine	Bunting	Ruxton	Baltimore	MD
Jon	Christmann	Timonium	Baltimore	MD
Therese	Dougherty	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Moriah	Dove	Baldwin	Baltimore	MD
Donna	Eden	Lutherville Timoniur	Baltimore	MD
Leo	Fenzel	White Marsh	Baltimore	MD
Laurence	Fogelson	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD

Charles	Frascati	Parkville	Baltimore	MD
Krysten	Garcia	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Kathy	Gross	Catonsville	Baltimore	MD
Carel	Hedlund	Cockeysville	Baltimore	MD
Raymond	Heil	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Rose Marie	Hellmann	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Kirsten	Hoffman	Towson	Baltimore	MD
David	Hutton	Catonsville	Baltimore	MD
Natalie	Johnson	Nottingham	Baltimore	MD
Bernadette	Krol	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Jessica	Krueger	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Dorothea	Lankford	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Noel	Levy	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Katherine	Martin	Perry Hall	Baltimore	MD
Rita	McMullin	Lutherville	Baltimore	MD
Dennis	McMullin	Lutherville	Baltimore	MD
Susan	Meier	Hunt Valley	Baltimore	MD
Marcia	Metzler	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Cora Lee	Middleton	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Elizabeth	Miller	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Barbara	Miyasaki	Cockeysville	Baltimore	MD
Patty	Mochel	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Patricia	Murphy	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Shirley	Myers	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Roland	Oehme	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Mary Ellen	Pease	Towson	Baltimore	MD
William	Reamy	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Peta	Richkus	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Cecilia	Rund	Reisterstown	Baltimore	MD
Carlton	Sexton	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Salman	Sheikh	Catonsville	Baltimore	MD
Sara	Sides	Parkton	Baltimore	MD
Ann	Snoeyenbos	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Stuart	Stainman	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Cynthia	Taylor	Owings Mills	Baltimore	MD
Lindsay	Thompson	Catonsville	Baltimore	MD
Diane	Topper	Towson	Baltimore	MD
Sandy Lee	Triolo	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
ann	vinup	Parkville	Baltimore	MD
Louise	Wagner	Timonium	Baltimore	MD
Paul	Waldman	Monkton	Baltimore	MD
Glenn	Wells	Timonium	Baltimore	MD
Joseph	Wright		Baltimore	MD
Barbara	Metz	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
peggy	meyer	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Charles	Minor	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
John	Moore	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD

Sean	O'Maille	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Christina	Pham Linhoff	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Lynn	Pinder	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Martha	Ruffin	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
John	Schmidt	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Celeste	Thurston	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Mary	Triandafilou	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Rev. Michele	Ward	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Dick	Williams	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Susan	Woodman	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Adrienne	Yoe	Baltimore	Baltimore	MD
Kathryn	Dangin	Owings	Calvert	MD
Cairn	Krafft	Owings	Calvert	MD
Rev. Albert K., III	Lane	Lusby	Calvert	MD
Susan	Vilcheck	Owings	Calvert	MD
Davin	Faris		Carroll	MD
Meg	Baldwin	Colora	Cecil	MD
Elisabeth	Davis	Elkton	Cecil	MD
Linda	Hunt	Elkton	Cecil	MD
Shawna	Robbins		Charles	MD
Rand	Tenor	Mechanicsburg	Cumberland	PA
Hurle	Waldman		DeKalb	GA
Ryan	Gullang	Eldorado	Dorchester	MD
Mollie	Rudow	Eldorado	Dorchester	MD
Elizabeth	Orr	Greenfield	Franklin	IN
Payne	Ann	Middletown	Frederick	MD
Clare	Archer	Mount Airy	Frederick	MD
Gwen	Austin	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Clifford	Barr	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Lorraine	Blakeslee	Jefferson	Frederick	MD
Patricia	Bodine	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Victoria	Bolton	Woodsboro	Frederick	MD
Patricia	Cahaney	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Linda	Coyle	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Marianne	Dacey	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Daniel	Davis	Frederick	Frederick	MD
mary ann c.	ford	frederick	Frederick	MD
Janet	Fox	Middletown	Frederick	MD
Gerald	Fuss	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Kerri	Hesley	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Susan	Johnson	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Leah	Mack	Bridge	Frederick	MD
Michael	Peterson	Myersville	Frederick	MD
Kathleen	Rall	Jefferson	Frederick	MD
Bernadette	Roche	Middletown	Frederick	MD
Barbara	Schectman	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Suzanne	Schmidt	Frederick	Frederick	MD

Sandra	Smith-Gill	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Shelley	Weakly	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Chaplain Esther	Ziegler	Frederick	Frederick	MD
Josh	Hastings	Forest Hill	Harford	MD
Cheryl	Arney	Ellicott City	Howard	MD
Dara	Baker	Columbia	Howard	MD
John	Barnes	Elkridge	Howard	MD
Paul	Beares	Sykesville	Howard	MD
Margaret	Burrows	Ellicott City	Howard	MD
Neal	Christie		Howard	MD
Ann	Clark-Whitlock	Ellicott City	Howard	MD
Liz	Feighner	Laurel	Howard	MD
Susannah	Feldman	Columbia	Howard	MD
Rochelle	Ginsburg	Columbia	Howard	MD
Ron	Gunderson	Ellicott City	Howard	MD
Rachel	Haak	Ellicott City	Howard	MD
Wendy	Hall		Howard	MD
Lisa	Hayes	Hanover	Howard	MD
Evelyn	Mogren	Columbia	Howard	MD
Debra	Ricigliano	Laurel	Howard	MD
Sheila	Robinson	Columbia	Howard	MD
barbara sue	senate	Columbia	Howard	MD
Ann	Singleton	Columbia	Howard	MD
Tamim	Sookoor	Columbia	Howard	MD
Bonnie	Sorak	Ellicott City	Howard	MD
Sharon	Unger	Columbia	Howard	MD
Barbara	Winter Watson	Ellicott City	Howard	MD
kathy	younkin	Columbia	Howard	MD
Rebekah	Hock	Chestertown	Kent	MD
Bill	Schmidt		King	WA
Sarah	Schmidt		King	WA
Theresa	Toole		Kings	NY
Christine	Cummings	Leesburg	Loudoun	VA
Yassine	Belkhodja	Potomac	Montgomery	MD
Alison	Bennett	Potomac	Montgomery	MD
Kolya	Braun-Greiner	Takoma Park	Montgomery	MD
Ronnie	Brown	Burtonsville	Montgomery	MD
Reba	Carruth	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
Deborah	Cohn	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD
John	Combs	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
Charlotte	Cook		Montgomery	MD
Megan	Didavi	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
William	Dinges	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
sylvia	diss	Potomac	Montgomery	MD
Fred Scherlinder	Dobb	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD
Julia	Fine	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD
Jacqueline	Fralley		Montgomery	MD

Michele	Frome	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Rev. Ken	Hawes	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Cathy	Henderson	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
John	Hisle	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD
Ann	Hisle	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD
Dan	Hockensmith	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
Kathleen	Holmay	Kensington	Montgomery	MD
Paul	Holmes		Montgomery	MD
Evelyn	Jacob	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
Kathryn	Kevany	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Janet	King	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Elizabeth	Kingery	Kensington	Montgomery	MD
Carolyn	Knight	Olney	Montgomery	MD
Mary	Kolle	Derwood	Montgomery	MD
Gail	Landy	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Melody	Magnus	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Maureen	Malloy	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Lee	McNair	Chevy Chase	Montgomery	MD
Eneshal	Miller	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Joelle	Novey	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Alison	Petersen	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Kenzie	Raulin	Kensington	Montgomery	MD
Rebecca	Rehr	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Heidi	Rhodes	Silver Spring	Montgomery	MD
Jodi	Rose	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
Mary	Rouse	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Tonya	Sanders Thach	Germantown	Montgomery	MD
Laurie-Anne	Sayles	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Linda	Silversmith	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
Ruth Anna	Skowronski	Germantown	Montgomery	MD
Rebecca	St.John	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Patricia	Tice	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
ellen	turner		Montgomery	MD
Gail	Unterberger	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Laurie	Wallace-Lanham	Gaithersburg	Montgomery	MD
Johanna	Wermers	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
nanci	wilkinson	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD
Marilyn	Wind		Montgomery	MD
Mark	Wright	Rockville	Montgomery	MD
Laurie	Yelle	Germantown	Montgomery	MD
Amy	Yount	Bethesda	Montgomery	MD
Rev. Robert	Whitlock		Multnomah	OR
Michael	Bloom	Berwyn Heights	Prince George's	MD
Joyce	Dowling	Brandywine	Prince George's	MD
Monica	Greene	Bowie	Prince George's	MD
Heidi	Hess-Webber	Laurel	Prince George's	MD
Donna	Hoffmeister	Greenbelt	Prince George's	MD



Jesica	Jacobs	Bowie	Prince George's	MD
Sandra	Miller	Unit X Greenbelt	Prince George's	MD
Kurt	Pluntke	Colmar Manor	Prince George's	MD
Judith	Rubinstein	Greenbelt	Prince George's	MD
Catherine	Tengwall	Grasonville	Queen Anne's	MD
Alysia	Feuer	Chino Hills	San Bernardino	CA
Richard	Yobst	Marion Station	Somerset	MD
Cheryl	Sidwell	Avella	Spartanburg	PA
Holly Fluty	Dempsey	Bethany Beach	Sussex	DE
Annabel	Leshner	Easton	Talbot	MD
Wendy	Alberg	Ithaca	Tompkins	NY
Donna	Dannals		Union	NJ
Debbie	Satorius	Knoxville	Washington	MD
Linda	Abbott	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Katie	Ayd	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
James	Cockey	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Cheryl	Lang	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Kacie	Larsen	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Rev. Frieda L	Malcolm	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Ron	Pagano JD	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Elizabeth	Parker	Delmar	Wicomico	MD
George H.	White	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Farah	Yahya	Salisbury	Wicomico	MD
Mary	Harrison	Ocean City	Worcester	MD
Danielle	Allen			MD
Ruwaydah	Amin	Baltimore		MD
Linda	Bergofsky	Laurel		MD
Sharon	Boies			
Barbara	Bowles	Baltimore		MD
Peter	Brooks	Baltimore		MD
Drew	Brown	Baltimore		MD
Christopher	Burkins			
Laura	Byrne			
Angelia	Caro	Baltimore		MD
Raymond	Chase	Baltimore		MD
Hugh	Cropper			
Margaret	Cummings			
Jan	Danforth	Baltimore		MD
Linda	Davis			
Santiago	Duques	Baltimore		MD
Marzena	Dyba			
Sylvia	Eastman	Baltimore		MD
Geraldine	Fialkowski	Baltimore		MD
Siddeeqah	Fichman			
rosemary	Flickinger	Baltimore		MD
Thomas	Freeman	Baltimore		MD
Nancy	Gehman			MD

Charlie	Goedeke	Laurel	MD
Debbie	Gousha		
Bonnie	Greer	Washington	DC
Bethany	Gregg	Baltimore	MD
Louise	Gregg	Baltimore	MD
Peter	Gregg	Mayo	MD
Kathleen	Hairfield		
Ammar	Hanif	Odenton	MD
Deanna	Harkins	Joppa	MD
Molly	Hauck		MD
Polly	Heninger	Baltimore	MD
ste	ho		
Lani	Hummel		
Jill	Huppert	Baltimore	MD
Katherine	Huy		
Alwafaa	Khatib		
Nikole	Koterski		
Dylan	Laconich		
Amie	LaPorte		MD
Faheem	Lea		
Susan	Levine	Laurel	MD
Katie	Little	Baltimore	MD
Erica	Lloyd	Washington	DC
Rev. Jessica	Lowry		MD
Ellen	MacKenzie		
Dot	Malone		
Mary	Mehala		
Laura	Melamed		
Oswaldo	Montoya		
Delores	Moore		MD
Carole	Moore		
Margaret	Moos		CT
Audrey	Rogers		MD
John Francis	Rogers		MD
Rosemary	Schappelle		CT
Janet	Scudiero		
Dominic	Scudiero		
Rasheedah	Sharif		
Karen	Stern		
Maureen	Taylor		
Lydia	Thomas		MD
Jennifer	Tobian		
Cynthia	Williams		