

February 15, 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,

As a member of the Board of the Black Swamp Creek land trust of southern Maryland I write to urge your support for the Greenspace Equity Program (HB 503) to advance this bill favorably from committee.

Our small land trust is most active around the Brandywine-Aquasco area. As you may know, preserving green spaces in southern Prince George's county -where pressure to accommodate development, mining sites and industrial zoning is intense- is a social justice issue as well as a strictly environmental one.

The passage of this bill would encourage our local officials and planners to consider land conservation as a vital component of climate change preparedness as well as preserving the right of citizens to access green and open spaces.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Claire Gerhard, Board Member

Black Swamp Creek Land Trust

PO Box 1072

Brandywine, MD 20613