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Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB259 “Natural Resources - Maryland State Parks - Funds and Plan Alterations”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: January 24, 2024

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports SB259. The bill would strengthen implementation of the Maryland the Beautiful Act by extending the deadline for spending the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund to 2029 and adjusting the allowed uses of the funds. It will help fund infrastructure projects that mitigate the effects of climate change as well as historic projects. The bill also targets transportation improvements to promote broader access to Maryland public lands and would improve boat, kayak, picnic and swimming access to the State’s waterfront lands. It also will support land acquisition and outdoor environmental education. Finally, it extends the deadline for developing and publishing the Comprehensive Long-Range Strategic Plan by one year.

These steps will promote effective implementation of important aspects of the Maryland the Beautiful Act and help ensure that Maryland meets its conservation goals.

We encourage the Committee to support this legislation.

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