

Wes Moore Governor Aruna Miller Lieutenant Governor Paul J. Wiedefeld Secretary

February 16, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee 2 West, Miller Office Building Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 645 – Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland Office of Trails – Establishment (Gret Maryland Trails Act)

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information on Senate Bill 645 for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 645 seeks to establish a Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland Office of Trails within MDOT in an effort to improve access to trails across Maryland. It further requires certain staffing to the Maryland Office of Trails and assigns specific tasks to the Office and Committee.

MDOT is actively working with the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Planning to find a path forward and meet the shared objectives and goals of Senate Bill 645. We look forward to continued collaboration with the bill sponsor.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 645.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm Director of Government Affairs Maryland Department of Transportation 410-865-1090