



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 20, 2024

Hon. Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland

Hon. Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB228 FAVORABLE

Chairperson Barnes and Chairperson Korman,

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 written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB228.**

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: presmd.org)

Why We Support This Legislation: The original intent of the Great Maryland Outdoors Act was to provide greater support for park operations, maintenance, and activation of new spaces for the growing number of park visitors. The simple amendments contained in this legislation will help the department address that intent more holistically by being provided with the ability to shift funds to address current critical needs while still permitting significant investment in land acquisition for new parkland.

Currently, the language of the act reads that a certain amount of funds will be expended on land acquisition – the amended language provides DNR with some flexibility by allowing up to that amount be expended on land acquisition, thus allowing the agency to potentially shift funds to park development or historic preservation, as opportunities arise.

HB228 is a simple but important piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

Favorable

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO