



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0022
AGRICULTURE – POLLINATOR HABITAT PLANT – REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ruth

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0022 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Pollinator populations have been declining for some time due to habitat loss and use of pesticides. In order to protect one of the most basic building blocks of our food system, we should be prioritizing habitats and protections for pollinators.

This bill, if enacted, would require development and maintenance of pollinator habitat areas along state highways and encourage the use of pollinator-friendly native plants in the development of those habitat areas. It would also require the State Highway Administration to track and evaluate Federal programs that provide funding for pollinator habitats, native plants, and invasive species control and to apply for appropriate Federal funding. It also requires the State Highway Administration to update a pollinator habitat plan by October of this year.

Our members understand that we have to protect pollinators. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.