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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 29, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Korman, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce presenting **HB530 – Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland Office of Trails - Establishment (Great Maryland Trails Act)**.

HB530 establishes the Maryland Office of Trails (MOT) within the Department of Transportation. The purpose of this office is to develop and maintain the Maryland Trails Network, promote trail usage, create an inventory and database of trails, and collaborate with stakeholders to advance trail development and usage.

This bill aims to improve the network within the Department of Transportation and enhance safety through collaboration with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Similar initiatives have proven successful in other states, highlighting the importance and effectiveness of dedicated trail offices in promoting outdoor recreation, connectivity, and safety. Since 2013, 16 states (**Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire**) have established Trail Offices to develop and implement sustainable, connected trail networks, ensuring citizen accessibility and safety.

I thank the Committee for their time and consideration for support of HB530.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce".

Regina T. Boyce