

SB0300_DNR_SUP_ENT_3-27-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Josh Kurtz

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 27, 2024

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 300 – Third Reader

SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources-Wildland Areas-Belt Woods Wildland

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Departmental makes a minor modification to the Wildlands Law to facilitate plans to structurally stabilize two historically significant barns within the Belt Woods Wildland. In accordance with the advice of the Department’s Office of the Attorney General, existing restrictions and limitations on the use of mechanized equipment within designated wildlands prevent the Department from preserving these important historical structures. (Existing language allows the Department to remove the structures, but there is no provision for stabilizing, repairing or restoring them.) The proposed language is identical to that which already exists for two other wildland areas.

The Department has also worked with the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission on the amendment included in the bill as it passed the Senate to ensure proper collaboration with them prior to undertaking the work authorized by the legislation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Belt Woods was designated as a Wildland in 1997 to protect the unique old growth forest and sensitive species on the site. However, Belt Woods Natural Environment Area is on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (PG:74A-38). The property was once known as “Oatland” or “Home Farm” and it was an investment property owned by the Calvert/Stuart families and primarily occupied by enslaved peoples. Two barns on the site have been identified as being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Likely built in about 1825 by enslaved labor, the Calvert Barn is an excellent example of an early 19th century tidewater tobacco barn. It is constructed using traditional tidewater building techniques and is a remarkably large and intact example. It is among the largest early 19th century tobacco barns in Prince George’s County, if not in Maryland. Furthermore, it possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is eligible for listing under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. The Seton Belt Barn, built between 1890 and 1900, is a large, distinctive barn with unique elements of Victorian design, such as pyramidal-shaped and louvered cupolas, a jerkinhead roof, and jigsawn pendants on the overhanging eaves lending an attention to decoration that is rarely seen on functional agricultural structures. The Seton Belt Barn embodies the

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)

distinctive characteristics of a unique type, period, and method of construction, and it also possesses high artistic values. Furthermore, it possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is eligible for listing under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Both of these barns have been deteriorating with the passage of time and are in need of significant repair. In previous fiscal years, funds were set aside for the work, but the Department was unable to move forward given the Wildland restrictions. At the recommendation of the Office of the Attorney General, the proposed language will allow historic study, stabilization and restoration of the structures within the Wildland after consultation with Maryland Historical Trust. The language proposed to be added already exists in the law for two other wildland areas (Mattawoman and Chapman). Unlike Belt Woods, these two wildlands were added more recently, and the importance of the historic features of the sites were recognized, and measures allowing for their preservation was included in their initial Wildland designation.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill would enable the Department - in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust - to move forward with structural assessment, stabilization and possible restoration of the historic barns at Belt Woods. It would allow the use of mechanized equipment within the Wildlands, but only for this stated purpose related to historic preservation, ensuring the protective intent of the Wildland law is maintained.

BY:

(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 300
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, after line 18, insert:

“(5) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, PRIOR TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKING ANY ACTIVITIES ON THE SETON BELT BARN, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION.”; and in line 19, strike **“(5)”** and substitute **“(6)”**.

SB_300_UNF_LateTestimony_FreeVox

Uploaded by: Free Vox

Position: UNF

HOD - Environment & Transportation

Dear Delegate,

Please vote AGAINST SB0300 and keep the state out of regulating these areas in Prince George's County. Let the county do what it wishes WITHOUT the state dictating what to do with this area.

Sincerely,

Lee Robinson

Gaithersburg (LD-39)

Montgomery County

"Oh, say, does that **star-spangled banner** yet wave?
O'er the land of the **free** and the **home** of the **brave!**"

SB 300-OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Diefenbach

Position: UNF

SB 300-OPPOSE

I am opposed to UNAgenda21policies.

Linda Diefenbach
Middletown, MD

SB0300OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Peggy Williams

Position: UNF

SB0300 OPPOSE

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly oppose this bill because I do not subscribe to UNAgenda21 policies.

<https://americanstewards.us/the-wildlands-project-returns/>

Please oppose this bill.

Peggy Williams

Severna Park

D31

SB300_UnAgenda21_Vote NO.pdf

Uploaded by: Stacy Pedersen

Position: UNF

To the Maryland Congress: See link
below....

UNAgenda21 plan that takes people off the land. This plan would ultimately move humans into limited, self-sustained population settlement centers, leaving the majority of America's lands off limits from human use. This is by request of the Governor. Environmental communism.
<https://americanstewards.us/the-wildlands-project-returns/>

I am opposed to UNAgenda21 policies.
This will lead to the removal of the freedom
to own our own land.

Vote NO on SB 300

Sincerely,
Stacy Pedersen

SB0300.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: UNF

I am adamantly opposed to any and all UN Agenda21 policies, therefore I oppose SB0300.

Suzanne Price
AACo, Maryland