



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 18, 2025

Hon. Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 120
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB0794 FAVORABLE

Chairperson Barnes,

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 HB0794** – a piece of legislation that would establish the Indian Heritage and Culture Grant Program and fund to preserve Indian tribal history and culture.

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)

This legislation would provide \$500,000 annually to establish a new *Indian Heritage and Culture Grant Fund* that would provide grants to recognized tribes, nonprofits, and state agencies working with tribes, to support research and preservation of indigenous historic resources. From archaeology to historic structures, there are numerous sites and stories deserving of this support – which is not currently provided in Maryland and this fund would be a welcome addition to the history and culture funding matrix.

HB0794 is an important piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

Favorable

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO