

DANA M. STEIN  
*Legislative District 11B*  
Baltimore County

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SPEAKER PRO TEM

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Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Environment

Natural Resources,  
Agriculture and Open Space



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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of  
HB 530 – Maryland Forestry Education Fund - Extension**

This bill would extend the duration of the Maryland Forestry Education Fund, which we passed into law in 2023 (HB 289) for a two-year period, by extending the annual appropriation of \$250,000 through 2031.

We need a forestry education fund because forestry education as a staff function of the forest service was abandoned over 25 years ago when the agency was downsized in an earlier budget crisis.

The state has long recognized the need for specific stewardship education for the agriculture community, funding the Maryland Agriculture Foundation in 1989.

Our purpose in HB 530 is more modest. It is to build the capacity of local Forestry Boards by strengthening the Maryland Forestry Foundation (an independent 501c3). The Foundation would provide training and education to forest landowners, district forestry boards, and local governments to make sure they're well-briefed on everything from healthy forest management to urban forestry.