



Maryland Native Plant Society

APPRECIATION CONSERVATION EDUCATION

**Testimony: SB722, Department of the Environment - Definition of Ecological Restoration
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Hearing Date: March 26, 2025
Position: Favorable with Amendments**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and honorable members of the Committee,

The Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) supports Senate Bill 722 with amendments. SB722 defines the term “ecological restoration.” MNPS believes it is important to restore natural areas. However, the current definition in the bill opens the door for restorations that look good, but degrade chemical or biological processes.

MNPS respectfully requests the following amendments to 1–1001.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION” MEANS AN ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN WITH THE GOAL OF RECOVERING, RE-ESTABLISHING, OR ENHANCING A DEGRADED, DAMAGED, OR DESTROYED ECOSYSTEM THROUGH:

(1) IMPROVEMENTS TO ~~PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL, OR~~ BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OR PROCESSES [BROUGHT ABOUT BY ACTIVITIES THAT COULD INCLUDE PHYSICAL OR CHEMICAL MODIFICATIONS; AND]

(2) [(I)] [PROTECTING OR IMPROVING] RETURNING NATURAL OR HISTORICAL [BIOLOGICAL] FUNCTIONS OR SERVICES; [AND] OR

[(II)]3 PROTECTING OR IMPROVING [ECOLOGICAL] RESILIENCY.

Please conserve our natural ecosystems for current and future generations by defining “ecological restoration” so that restoration will help, not hurt,, Maryland’s ecosystems. We respectfully request that you vote in favor of SB722 with the above amendments.

Sincerely,
Judy Fulton
Vice President of the Maryland Native Plant Society
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