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Testimony for **SB722**

Department: Environment - Definition of Ecological Restoration

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Hearing Date: March 26, 2025

Position is Favorable (w/Amendments)

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

I support Senate Bill 722 with amendments.

I believe the term “ecological restoration” in this bill is lacking adequate definition. While it is important to restore natural areas, the current iteration of the bill might create an adequate appearing restoration, but not necessarily one that is beneficial to the ecology, instead interfering with or interrupting beneficial chemical and biological organisms.

I support the MNPS amendments recommendations to 1-1001, as follows.

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.

This change is small but mighty, and will help rather than hurt Maryland’s ecosystems.

Thank you. I respectfully request that you vote in favor of SB722 with the above amendments.

Amanda Wray

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