MICHELE GUYTON

Legislative District 42B

Baltimore County

Environment and Transportation Committee



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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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## HB 368 – Favorable General Provisions – Commemorative Month – Maryland Native Plant Month

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 368 to officially recognized May as Maryland Native Plant Month. For the past three years the Governor has recognized a Maryland Native Plant Month but not consistently in the same month and with little notice. Officially declaring May as Maryland Native Plant Month in perpetuity will give Maryland native plant growers and retailers consistency. It will also allow education for the public about the benefits of choosing native plants and significant dangers of invasive species. HB 368 has no fiscal note but has both positive economic and environmental impacts. Each year Maryland spends millions of dollars combating the effects of invasive plants on our native ecosystem. In addition, nurseries and landscapers who grow and promote our native vegetation are a large part of the solution to this problem and deserve to be promoted themselves. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 368.

Sincerely,

**Delegate Michele Guyton** 

Delegate Michele Luytan

District 42B