

Vibrant Gardening LLC

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Committee: Health and Government Operations

Testimony on: HB368 “General Provisions - Commemorative Month - Maryland Native Plant Month”

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 13, 2025

I strongly support HB368 and I ask that the committee report favorably on the bill.

I run a small business in Laurel, MD called Vibrant Gardening LLC. I’m a native gardening consultant seeking to grow the number of people gardening for wildlife. I offer consultations, garden design services, plant acquisition, and project management for installations. I try to meet folks where they are, as they often have little gardening expertise. I teach them what they need to know about Maryland native plants, help them find those plants, and ultimately ensure their new gardens will thrive for year to come. Also, I almost exclusively buy plants grown in Maryland.

State-sponsored advertising for native plants, like Maryland Native Plant Month and the Maryland Native Plant Program (under Maryland’s Best) are important first steps for establishing a local industry to grow, promote, sell, and install native plants. Even as a licensed Maryland plant dealer, I find it complicated to find the wholesale plants needed for my designs and get them to my clients. However, every year it gets a little bit easier, as more growers are growing more species of plants native to Maryland.

Maryland Native Plant Month is also important because so many other state and local programs are gathering steam. Whether it be No Mow April in the City of Laurel leading conveniently into the May declaration, or our PG County Rain Check Rebate program that is now funding native gardens in the form of conservation landscapes.

These local programs, as well as larger efforts by the state, directly stimulate our local economy, supporting small businesses like mine, and all of the growers and wholesalers who supply us.

I urge you to support this bill in committee and on the chamber floor.

Best Regards,

Jimmy Rogers, PMP, CBLP
Owner, Vibrant Gardening LLC