



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 24, 2026

Hon. Guy Guzzone  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: SB0638 FAVORABLE**

**Chairperson Guzzone,**

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB0638** – Natural Resources - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority - Funding and Grants.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: [presmd.org](http://presmd.org))

This bill will authorize the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to award grants and loans to certain entities for the management of certified heritage areas under certain circumstances. It decreases from 10% to 7% the percentage of Program Open Space funds transferred to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund that may be used for certain operating expenses. And repeals a provision of law authorizing the distribution of up to \$300,000 to the Maryland Historical Trust. We support this legislation as we believe its passage would positively impact Maryland's heritage areas and our understanding of the state's long and challenging history.

**SB0638 is an important piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.**

**Favorable**

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO