



Promoting native landscapes through education,
advocacy and collaborative action.
Contact:wildonesnationscapital@gmail.com

Testimony: SB 266, Local Government - Regulatory Powers - Regulation of Tree of Heaven
Committee: Energy, Education and Environment
Hearing Date: February 10, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

Chair, Brian Feldman; Vice Chair, Cheryl Kagan; and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Wild Ones Nation's Capital Region, a 250- member chapter of the national organization, "Wild Ones".¹ urges your support for this bill as there is a critical need to eliminate invasive plants, including Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)². The situation is urgent because they are devastating our natural ecosystems. Invasives grow quickly, and smother, choke, poison, and outcompete native plants, which are the backbone of our local ecosystems. They also harbor invasive insects such as the spotted lantern fly (*Lycorma delicatula*)³

Adding Tree of Heaven to Bamboo for County action is a minimalist action. There are many other such plants that our Counties must be able to regulate. In the future, please consider expanding this list to include those on the prohibited invasive plants list published by the State Department of Agriculture⁴ Consistency within the State would be beneficial.

Please approve this bill.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Broadman
Director, Legislative Affairs

Pru Foster
President

¹ Wild Ones, a nationwide nonprofit organization with local chapters throughout the country,

²<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/invasives-your-woodland-tree-heaven-ailanthus-updated-2025/>

³ <https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx>

⁴ https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx