

February 27, 2026

Re: SB 688 – Environment – Stream and Floodplain Restoration Projects – Requirements and Limitations – UNFAVORABLE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill 0688. GreenVest would like to register our strong opposition to this bill.

GreenVest is a small business headquartered in Prince George’s County, with a nearly 20-year history of providing both economic and environmental benefit to the state. Our ownership team and employees are primarily Maryland residents, and GreenVest is deeply committed to pursuing sound policy in the state.

GreenVest is a developer of environmental assets: we find environmental needs, craft nature-based solutions to meet them, and fully-deliver resilient, self-sustaining, natural projects that are fully compliant with all local, state, and federal regulatory requirements. Over our history in Maryland, GreenVest has delivered extensive water quality mitigation work throughout the state, including stream restoration work as evidenced by the following list of accomplishments:

- Over 150,000 linear feet of stream created, restored, or enhanced
- Over 300 acres of habitat created, restored, enhanced, and preserved
- 25,322,212.91 pounds per year of suspended solids reduced
- 8,219.88 pounds per year of phosphorus reduced
- 20,846.27 pounds per year of nitrogen reduced

As a small business, GreenVest does not do this important work on our own. Each of our projects is implemented by a team of local businesses, from surveyors to engineers to landscapers to contractors and more, all of which employ Maryland residents. We use minority- and women-owned business enterprises on each of our projects, and work to help other small businesses get a foothold in the ever-growing green economy.

GreenVest’s approach to environmental uplift, including stream restoration, allows us to provide exceptional value for our clients. We are very proud that our client list includes municipalities, counties, state government agencies, the federal government, and non-profit organizations. For our government clients, GreenVest’s work saves taxpayer money, by bringing private-sector efficiency to publicly beneficial projects. Our work with non-profit clients allows local organizations to bring federal grant dollars into the state and accomplish environmentally beneficial projects that are more complex than the non-profit could do on its own.

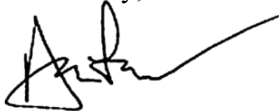
Collectively, GreenVest’s stream restoration projects have brought tens of millions of dollars of economic impact to Maryland, invested in small businesses and their employees.

SB 688 includes requirements that are unnecessarily duplicative of a suite of current Maryland Department of the Environment permit requirements, rules, and regulations that already effectively regulate stream restoration. In 2024 the General Assembly passed the Whole Watershed Act, which

covered this same ground and added additional protections around stream restoration. SB 688's redundant provisions would take away our ability to implement projects that are good for our government clients, good for local small businesses, and good for the environment.

GreenVest is exceptionally proud of all the work we've accomplished in Maryland, especially our stream restoration work. Our Maryland staff is proud of the projects we've done to uplift our state's environment. We strongly urge an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 688.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DLashley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Douglas Lashley
Managing Member