



A Trout Unlimited Gold Chapter

RE: HB 0217 SB 0229 – Maryland Native Plant Month – FAVORABLE

On behalf of over 400 members of Maryland Trout Unlimited, we support a FAVORABLE position for HB 0217 SB 0229. As a cold-water conservation organization, Maryland Trout Unlimited recognizes the value of permanently designating May as Maryland Native Plant Month. This bill will increase the demand for native plants, encouraging the sale and planting of plants native to the climatic, geologic, and soil conditions of Maryland. We hope it will promote Maryland wholesale and retail growers, nurseries and garden centers, supporting local businesses and increasing stock available for purchase. This bill will provide a permanent window and lead time to plan educational activities, allowing MDTU and our teaming partners to organize plantings of riparian buffers, invasive plant removal projects, and community stream cleanups. Native plants and trees, when thoughtfully planted, improve soil health, support our native pollinators, reduce harmful sediment from entering our waterways, and improve air quality by capturing carbon dioxide and air pollutants. We strongly recommend the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 0217 SB 0229.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rich Dennison".

Rich Dennison

Vice President, Maryland Chapter of Trout Unlimited