



Vibrant Gardening

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Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: SB229 General Provisions – Commemorative Month – Maryland Native Plant Month

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 12, 2026

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

As the owner of a native gardening business in Laurel, MD, I urge the committee to prioritize this bill to make May a “perennial” (excuse the pun) commemorative month celebrating native plants in Maryland. Our state is in the midst of a tidal wave of interest in native plants, gardening for wildlife, and residential ecology. However, there is a huge knowledge gap for most residents, both about which plants are native to Maryland and how best to use them in their gardens to support pollinators and other wildlife. Additionally, sourcing Maryland native plants that were grown in Maryland can be extremely difficult.

My business is Vibrant Gardening LLC, a native gardening consultancy and a [Maryland's Best Native Plants](#) Gold Tier Retailer. I am primarily interested in helping more people become native gardeners, so I provide education, design, sourcing, and installation support. The new Maryland Native Plants Program has just gotten off the ground and begun offering programming that has made my job immeasurably easier. I'd love to see a state-wide push every year to help our most novice gardeners, who are most often at the retail nurseries in May, be directed toward native plant products that can be grown in-state. I buy almost exclusively Maryland-grown plants for my customers and work closely with local growers. They need to know that their stocks will sell out this year in order to confidently scale next year.

Native plants and wildlife gardens provide residents with one of the few tangible, meaningful changes they can make to their properties to respond to climate change and species loss.

I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Rogers, PMP, CBLP
Owner, Vibrant Gardening LLC



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Gold Tier Retailer