

SB 0229

Miner L. (Moe) Brown

FAVORABLE with AMENDMENT

Title: General Provisions-Commemorative Month-Maryland Native Plant Month

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Chair: Senator Brian J. Feldman and Vice Chair-Senator Cheryl C. Kagan

Sponsored by Senator Brooks and Senator Gile

This testimony is written in [strong support](#) of Senate Bill 0229, General Provisions-Commemorative Month- Maryland Native Plant Month. **One simple amendment would be adding the word "Awareness" in the title after the word Plant.**

My name is Miner L. (Moe) Brown, a 37-year resident of Maryland and District 11B. I am a parent, grandparent, great grandparent, Coordinator of a new Scouting's Citywide Conservation Initiative in Fort McHenry District, Baltimore Area Council, Scouting America encompassing the City of Baltimore, an Eagle Scout & Silver Beaver Awardee, a long-time naturalist guide and Irvine Nature Center's 1st Lifetime Achievement Awardee at the Center, a Sierra Club member, and an active member of the Social Justice Committee at our local congregation.

Our Maryland wildlife are dying; our birdlife is disappearing. They are all depend on native plants for their food and habitat. Our native MD plants (here before colonial settlement) are also seriously threatened by over-use of pesticides, home-owners planting their landscapes with invasive non-native plants, fields being cleared for housing and other building development, and invasive plants being sold at nurseries that push out native plants. **Some Positive Words** -through the significant efforts of our Department of Agriculture, 13 new invasive plant species have just been listed as prohibited such as Japanese barberry and burning bush, and the next 20 plants for assessment have been announced.

Some planting answers to reversing this downward slope include **native** planting of pollinator gardens, rain gardens, wildflower meadows, canopy trees, and creation of NOMowMay programs at the edges of large mowed lawns to name a few.

Our public must become much more knowledgeable about these threats to our nature and how to combat them!. For these reasons, I urge the adoption of SB0229.