

SB 229 – COMMEMORATIVE MONTH OF MAY – MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT MONTH –  
WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF THE BILL

To: Honorable Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (EEE)  
From: Kathy Lambrow, Baltimore Bird Club, Inc. (A chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society)

I write on behalf of the Baltimore Bird Club's Conservation Committee to voice our strong support for the passage of Senate Bill 229, which would designate May as Native Plant Month in Maryland. This proclamation is a timely, practical, and symbolic step that will advance biodiversity, ecological resilience, and public awareness across our state.

Native plants provide essential habitat and food resources for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Establishing a Native Plant Month will help promote restoration of local ecosystems, support declining pollinator populations, and strengthen natural defenses against pests and invasive species. In urban and suburban areas, native plantings can improve stormwater management, reduce maintenance costs, and enhance community green spaces.

Native plants are foundational to healthy bird populations. Many native insects that birds rely on for feeding nestlings are dependent on native trees and plants; without those plants, food webs collapse. Native shrubs, trees, and grasses offer appropriate shelter, nesting sites, and seasonal fruits and seeds that migratory and resident birds depend on throughout the year. Planting natives helps sustain insect abundance during breeding season, provides stopover resources for migrants, and supports species that are already stressed by habitat loss and climate change.

Beyond the ecological benefits, a formal Native Plant Month offers significant educational and economic opportunities. It would encourage schools, community groups, municipalities, and private landowners to organize planting events, workshops, and outreach that increase horticultural literacy and engage volunteers. Local nurseries and landscapers that specialize in native species would also benefit from increased public interest and demand.

Declaring May—when many native species emerge and bloom—aligns naturally with the planting season and maximizes public engagement. The designation is low-cost, non-regulatory, and broadly popular, yet capable of catalyzing meaningful action for conservation and climate resilience across Maryland.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Bird Club (a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.) urges you to support and advance SB 229. We appreciate your consideration and are available to provide additional information in support of the bill.

Sincerely,



Kathy Lambrow  
Chair, Conservation Committee



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