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Patrick Moran – President

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**HB 959 – Natural Resources – Establishment of Gwynns Falls State Park  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 25, 2026**

**Position: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

AFSCME Council 3 is proud to represent 55,000 public service workers across varying levels of government, including in our state, county, and local governments across Maryland. This includes the dedicated public employees who maintain our parks in the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department, as well as the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

HB 959 requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish Gwynns Falls State Park in partnership with Baltimore City. We believe that the continued maintenance and operation of this beautiful treasure in Baltimore City should remain public. That is the best way to ensure that it will be supported for the public's good and will be publicly accessible for future generations to come. Public management also ensures transparency and accountability for the public dollars that going to continue to support this public park.

If HB 959 passes and this partnership is established, it is important to AFSCME as the exclusive representative for both City employees and State employees who do this work, that we are brought in and be involved in how the transfer of any personnel from one public agency to another will occur.

We appreciate the committee's consideration of this information as you deliberate over this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact Denise Gilmore, Legislative and Political Director, at [dgilmore@afscmemd.org](mailto:dgilmore@afscmemd.org) if we can provide additional details.