

I am writing to express my support for Maryland Senate Bill 0266.

SB 266 empowers counties and municipalities with the authority to regulate the *tree of heaven*, a highly invasive species that harms native ecosystems and supports pests like the spotted lanternfly. Allowing local governments to adopt ordinances and establish bounty programs to control and remove these trees gives communities a practical tool to protect agriculture, forests, and property.

By addressing this environmental challenge at the local level, SB 266 promotes healthier landscapes and supports local efforts to manage invasive species effectively. I respectfully urge your support for this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.