

FROM: Romel Marmolejos

DATE: 1/21/26

SUBJECT: Support for May as Native Plant Month

My name is Romel Marmolejos, and I am a 6th grade student at Loch Raven Technical Academy. I am writing to strongly support the bill HB217 about May being Native Plant Month.

PHOTO 1: Close-up of a native plant



*Figure 1: Bee Balm blooming in Eastern North America, essential for local pollinators.*

Native plants are very important to the environment. Many insects have not evolved to be able to eat non-native plants. The relationship between flora and fauna are very specialized and cannot be replaced with non-native plants. Native plants provide food

and shelter to native wildlife. If humans keep planting non-native plants, the insects won't have food nor shelter. This means they will most likely die and ruin the ecological balance.

PHOTO 2: A beautiful, established native plant garden.



Figure 2: A flourishing native plant garden demonstrating biodiversity and aesthetic appeal.

Native plants are the foundation of a healthy food web. Designating this month will help educate our community to plant more native plants.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill and I hope you'll support HB217.

Sincerely,

Romel Marmolejos