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Budget and Taxation Committee

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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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Testimony for Senate Bill 743  
Natural Resources - Maryland Environmental Trust - Appointment of Trustees  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
March 4, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 743 - Natural Resources - Maryland Environmental Trust - Appointment of Trustees.

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) was established in 1967 and provides direct assistance, information, and tools to protect Maryland's landscapes. MET is quasi-public as a unit of both the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a board of trustees.

Currently, 19 trustees serve on the board, with the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House being ex officio members. Four trustees are elected each year, for four year terms, based on recommendations from ex officio members.

As a response to the difficulties in electing members to the MET Board, Senate Bill 743 alters the manner in which trustees are selected to serve. Senate Bill 743 requires the ex officio to appoint trustees, rather than make recommendations for election. The bill requires the Governor appoint two trustees, the President of the Senate appoint one trustee, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates appoint one trustee, each serving four year terms.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 743.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt