



HB322 – Restrictions on Use – Low Impact Landscaping

Testimony before Environment & Transportation Committee

January 19, 2020

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB322**, to eliminate barriers to low impact landscaping in our communities. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

This bill will prohibit a Homeowner's Association or other similar entity from placing unreasonable restrictions on low impact landscaping such as bio-habitats, raingardens and xeriscaping. These proven types of landscaping are shown to reduce stormwater runoff, save on fossil fuels and toxic chemicals, increase habitat for pollinators and birds, while making the soil healthier and storing more carbon deep in the ground. This in turn helps to keep our Chesapeake Bay clean and healthy, and improves our air quality right here in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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