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The Maryland House Committee on Environment and Transportation

SB0737 Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act

Position: Support

Maryland has an impressive body of land conservation and restoration programs, but they are disjointed. As a result, private capital investments in conservation remain cautious and limited.

SB0737 could remedy this. By having a guided state conservation plan, Maryland could tap millions of dollars annually in private investment to make the state more beautiful and more bird-friendly. This infusion of private dollars into the state is both good for business and good for birds and wildlife. Many bird species that depend on forest and wetland habitats, such as Eastern Whip-poor-will and American woodcock, are steadily declining. These species would benefit enormously from the conservation investments that would be encouraged by this bill.

The bill allows for mitigation practices to be eligible for private assistance via a number of public and private funding sources thus providing incentives for the private market to engage through pay-for-success models.

Among its many ways of incentivizing private investment in preservation and restoration, is the development of forest sequestration programs to promote forest conservation and planting.

By making a structured guide to conservation, Maryland would attract private conservation funds from a wider geographic area and set up the state as a leader in driving private capital toward environmental protection.

Please vote FOR SB0737 in committee and when it hits the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Curson".

David Curson, Ph.D
Director of Bird Conservation (Maryland)