



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 16, 2024

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: SB 645 - Maryland Trails Advisory Committee and the Maryland Office of Trails - Establishment (Great Maryland Trails Act)

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) strongly supports Senate Bill 645, which supports the development, management, and use of a designated system of connected trails throughout the State.

Connected park trails offer many benefits to local governments, residents, and visitors. Integration can stimulate economic growth and tourism within a state by attracting outdoor enthusiasts and recreational users for longer recreational journeys spanning multiple parks or regions. In doing so, these visitors spend money on accommodations, dining, transportation, and related services. Increased attention to these areas can inspire new businesses that cater to outdoor activities like gear rentals and guided tours. This chain of positive outcomes creates employment opportunities and generates revenue for our communities.

Park trails that are connected across a state support economic vitality and contribute to the quality of life of our residents and visitors. For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 645 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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