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Agenda Item	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Position

Agenda : Department of General Services (1)

11-CGL	Allie	Plihal	Heart of America	Support

We have materials and trades ready to transform this auditorium into a vibrant, safe space for staff and students!

Agenda : Secretary (3)

6	Colin	Beckman	Greenmount West Community Association	Support

I am the manager of an active Urban Trees Grant Program project in Baltimore City's Greenmount West neighborhood. Our project has opened dozens of new tree wells on our sidewalks and planted over 60 new trees in the last two years. We have also formed a group of residents to build tree fencing and provide watering for our new trees. As a result, our part of town will be cooler, have slower traffic, more birds and biodiversity, lower heating and cooling costs, and lower climate impacts for decades to come. So that more Baltimore neighborhoods will have the opportunity to similarly benefit, I urge you to continue to support the Urban Trees Grant Program. I believe that Maryland's biggest city, and all Maryland cities, will obtain long term economic and quality of life benefits far exceeding the immediate continued cost to our taxpayers. I thank you for your consideration.

6	Madalena	Henning		Support

I am a homeowner in Greenmount West, a neighborhood that has benefited significantly from over 60 trees planted thanks entirely to funds from the 5 Million Trees for Maryland Initiative because the Greenmount West Community Association is an awardee of the Urban Trees Grant Program which is administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. As an early adopter of the program, my neighborhood will have a more robust tree canopy, better air quality, less flooding, cooler surface and air temperatures, more beautiful greenery lining our streets, and more shade for recreation

over the next 30+ years. As climate change worsens, these early investments in the green infrastructure that trees represent will make my neighborhood more resilient to extreme weather events. Other neighborhoods that have few trees also deserve to have access to this grant program and to experience its benefits. Trees are a sustainable and cost effective means of mitigating challenges that are specific to urban environments in the face of climate change. Reducing or cutting funding for the 5 Million Trees for Maryland Initiative and the Urban Trees Grant Program would make it extremely difficult for underserved areas to bring trees to their neighborhoods - leaving them more vulnerable to worse public health outcomes and less resilient to climate change and extreme heat. Additionally, research has shown that trees deter crime and increase social cohesion. Please preserve funding for this unique and important program, the benefits of which will span decades and generations.

| 6 | Bryant | Smith | Baltimore Tree Trust | Support |

The Baltimore Tree Trust encourages your continued support for the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Urban Trees Program through Maryland's 5 Million Trees initiative, including the 500,000 trees dedicated to underserved urban communities. This program and funding ensure that areas disproportionately affected by environmental challenges, such as the urban heat island effect, benefit directly. The Chesapeake Bay Trust's funding has significantly impacted Baltimore City by supporting the Baltimore Tree Trust's transformative work over the past three years as a recipient of funds through the Urban Trees Program. Thanks to the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Urban Trees Grant Program, made possible by the state's investment in the 5 Million Trees for Maryland Initiative. Baltimore Tree Trust has planted 8,600 native trees in Baltimore City's underserved neighborhoods. This funding has been crucial to our broader mission: since our founding in 2008, we have planted over 20,000 trees throughout the city, establishing essential green infrastructure where it is most needed. The support from the Chesapeake Bay Trust has enabled us to focus specifically on communities most affected by climate change. When the 20,000 trees planted by BTT reach full maturity, Baltimore City will see incredible benefits from this public investment: 4.3 million square feet of new tree canopy coverage, 20.2 million pounds of carbon removed from the atmosphere, 113,000 pounds of harmful air pollutants filtered annually, 52.6 million gallons of stormwater runoff prevented, and $816,000 in annual electricity cost savings for residents and businesses. If just one grassroots organization can plant 20,000 trees with these benefits, imagine the transformational impact all 500,000 trees earmarked for urban communities out of the 5 Million Trees for Maryland Initiative will have. The Chesapeake Bay Trust's funding has allowed BTT to employ over 40 dedicated professionals representing our communities. Through our Neighborhood Forestry career pathways program, supported by CBT's investment and ongoing state funding, we create sustainable green jobs while building local expertise in urban forestry, ensuring our work has lasting community ownership. Beyond planting, the Chesapeake Bay Trust's support helps us provide ongoing care for over 6,500 trees for two years after planting across Baltimore City, ensuring residents reap the full benefits of a thriving urban canopy. This

comprehensive stewardship approach maximizes the return on every public dollar the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland invest in our communities. Annually, BTT connects with over 3,000 tree stewards and partners. In 2024, our engagement included 12 Baltimore City Public Schools, delivering practical ecological education to 241 students and bringing 150 trees to city school campuses. Additionally, 950 community members participated in volunteer plantings, educational programs, and outreach events. The Chesapeake Bay Trust and the 5 Million Trees initiative made these initiatives possible. The Chesapeake Bay Trust's Urban Trees Award Program reflects Maryland's commitment to the environment, economic efficiency, and climate resilience. The significant impact of this funding, demonstrated in Baltimore City through our partnership, shows the power of targeted investment in community-based organizations. We respectfully urge you to maintain full funding for this vital program and ensure urban communities can access green, healthy neighborhoods.