



**FOREVER**  
MARYLAND

Enhancing and Advancing Land Conservation

May 10, 2023

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**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Wendy Stringfellow (443-640-1034 x1140)

**Governor Moore Signs HB503 & SB470 Into Law**



*Forever Maryland's priority legislation, HB503/SB923 and SB470/HB631, accelerate land conservation around the state, were signed into law on Monday, May 8, 2023, by Governor Wes Moore.*



Forever Maryland's President Wendy Stringfellow stood alongside Gov. Moore, Senate President Bill Ferguson, Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones, Sen. Sarah Elfreth, Board member Katie Lauter, and land trust representatives, Ann Jones, Michelle Grafton, Michelle Boyle and Chesapeake Conservancy's Joel Dunn and Reed Perry, along with many other partners who worked tirelessly to advance the bills.

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Thanks to the advocacy efforts of Forever Maryland and our partners, as well as key legislators, we saw several pieces of important legislation pass this session. (SB 923/HB 503 ) Natural Resources - Greenspace Equity Program, sponsored by Del. Stein and (SB 470/ HB 631) The Maryland the Beautiful Act, sponsored by Sen. Sarah Elfreth bring much needed conservation funding to Maryland.

The Greenspace Equity Program provides grants to land trusts or counties and municipalities, to help enhance the public health and livability of overburdened and underserved communities across Maryland.

The Maryland the Beautiful Act establishes a statewide land conservation goal of 40 x 40, and funding to high impact programs that Maryland Environmental Trust will administer which includes: a revolving loan fund program for land trusts, the expansion of funding for the Keep Maryland Beautiful grants program, Land Conservation Implementation Grant Program, and stewardship funding for land trusts.

To learn more about these and other natural resources related bills, click on the link for Forever Maryland's webinar: [What Happened During the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Session?](#)

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*Forever Maryland promotes and supports the land and water conservation community, through education, advocacy, and outreach, to permanently protect working landscapes and healthy ecosystems for all. Join Forever Maryland for the 2023 Maryland Land Conservation Conference in Annapolis, Maryland on October 4 and 5. Visit [forevermaryland.org](http://forevermaryland.org) for more information.*

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