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2021 MARYLAND LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS & FULL AGENDA

July 13-14th Conference Includes More than 50 Speakers, U.S. Senators, Podcast Recording, Networking Events and More

(*Forest Hill, MD – June 16, 2021*) Forever Maryland, Inc., a new statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of Maryland's land, water, wildlife, and other natural values, announces its full **2021 Maryland Land Conservation Conference** agenda and speaker list. The conference, themed "*Preserving with a Purpose*," will be held on July 13th & 14th at Ripken Stadium, in Aberdeen, MD, and will include multiple local, regional, and national speakers.

Conference highlights include a federal update and question & answer session with U.S. Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, a "Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice within Conservation" panel, and a national speaker on the Biden Administration's "30 X 30 – America the Beautiful" conservation goal. Other session topics include a focus on leveraging public and private funds, a look at the latest conservation & restoration mapping tools, a special Chief Sustainability Officers Roundtable and much more.

Forever Maryland Program & Policy Director, Josh Hastings, said "For most people, this will be their first public gathering in a year and a half, so we want to make it count. This conference will be quite beneficial to land trust leaders, landowners, environmental nonprofits, parks and recreations professionals, and more. We'll explore emerging conservation issues, how to effectively lobby, and learn how to better communicate through stories and various media."

This in-person event will be held in the spacious club level floor of Ripken Stadium and will follow all CDC recommendations for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

"Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know communities are really focusing on how to better utilize the benefits of open space and our abundant natural resources. They want resilient towns, greater access to nature, more local foods and thriving farms, diverse recreation options and more. We're planning to address their desires and look forward to having a really special conference," said Wendy Stringfellow, President of Forever Maryland.

Conference registration is now open and Early Bird registration ends June 25th. For more information on the conference, visit: www.forevermaryland.org/2021-conference/

Forever Maryland forges networks of diverse collaborators to provide pathways for all generations to connect with and care for the beautiful and vitally important lands and waters of Maryland that sustain healthy, vibrant, and economically resilient communities.