

March 2, 2024



Delegate Marc Korman
ENVIRONMENTAL & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
marc.korman@house.state.md.us

House Bill 979: Agriculture – Invasive Plant Species – Regulation 2 (Biodiversity and Agriculture Protection Act)

Dear Delegate Korman,

The Friends of The Jones Falls (FJTF) is a 350+ member, volunteer-based organization incorporated in 2018, to support and sustain the quality of life and long-term stewardship of the central Jones Falls Stream Valley in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. **HB 979** would alter the regulatory approach to control invasive plant species, expand the list of nonnative plants banned for sale in Maryland, and assess plants for an invasive watch list.

Growth of common invasives challenges the environmental health of the Jones Falls corridor with no end in sight. FTJF organizes teams of volunteers, trained by Baltimore City Weed Warrior experts, for monthly parties to remove ever-more aggressive invasives that smother trees, green spaces and structures. Having stronger regulations to control invasives can only help FTJF volunteer efforts!

The Friends of The Jones Falls urges your strong support for **HB 979**.

Sincerely,

Sandy Sparks, President
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