



House Bill 90

Local Government - Regulatory Powers - Regulation of Invasive Bamboo

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: March 28, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 90. This bill would provide additional powers to local jurisdictions for the regulation and control of bamboo overgrowth.

As an invasive species, uncontrolled bamboo can present a threat to the health of Maryland's ecosystem. Depending on the species, bamboo can grow up to roughly three feet per day, quickly overwhelming natural landscapes, destroying private property, and negatively altering communities. While counties respect a homeowner's right to transform the landscape of their property within certain limits, it is critical that nonnative plant species be controlled from spreading beyond areas which they were intended.

HB 90 establishes a commonsense system whereby counties can regulate and penalize property owners for the unwelcome spread of bamboo overgrowth to both adjoining properties and within public rights-of-way.

HB 90 gives counties a necessary tool to control the unwelcome spread of bamboo within local communities. As such, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 90.