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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Maryland State Senator Paul D. Corderman Responds to Governor Wes Moore's Veto of SB 980
Natural Resources - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority - Funding and Grants**

Annapolis, MD - We are deeply disappointed by Governor Moore's veto of SB 980 - Natural Resources - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority - Funding and Grants, legislation that would have strengthened Maryland Heritage Areas Authority's ability to support local heritage, culture and outdoor recreation through expanded funding and grants.

SB 980 was a practical, bipartisan supported bill designed to modernize and strengthen one of Maryland's most effective tools for tourism, economic development and community revitalization. Its provisions would have enhanced the ability of local governments and nonprofit partners to preserve treasured resources, stimulate tourism and generate sustainable economic activity. Moreover, there was no fiscal impact to this bill as SB 980 granted the Governor the authority to authorize funds and did not include any mandated appropriations.

Maryland's Heritage Areas serve as a national model for leveraging small strategic investments into far-reaching cultural and economic benefits. At a time when local economies are seeking targeted, place-based investments, this decision withdraws critical support from programs that have consistently delivered strong returns for both residents and visitors. The veto of SB 980 stalls much-needed updates to this program and delays opportunities for growth, stewardship, and accessibility in locations across the state.

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