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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Capital Budget – Miscellaneous Grants – Pearlstone Center

House Appropriations Committee, Capital Subcommittee

March 9, 2021

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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American Jewish Committee

Americans for Peace Now

Baltimore Chapter

American Israel Public Affairs Committee

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Association of Reform Zionists of America

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Chizuk Amuno Congregation

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Jewish Federation of Howard County

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National Council of Jewish Women

Ner Tamid Congregation

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Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation

Shomrei Emanah Congregation

Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society

Suburban Orthodox Congregation

Temple Beth Shalom

Temple Isaiah

Zionist Organization of America

Baltimore District

Support DLS's Recommendation

The Baltimore Jewish Council (BJC) supports the \$500,000 dollar allocation in the Governor's proposed FY22 budget and agrees with DLS's recommendation. The BJC represents the Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all its programs and agencies. Pearlstone is an agency of the Associated. Pearlstone has already raised \$10 million for the project.

Background: Utilizing 180 acres of rolling hills, farmland, and forest in northern Baltimore County, pre-pandemic Pearlstone impacted over 22,000 annual participants from across the state of Maryland and beyond. The Pearlstone Campus Master Plan will double its impact to engage over 40,000 annual participants. One of the core values of Pearlstone is engagement with the greater Baltimore Community, including community farm days and connecting with Baltimore's most underserved children.

Since 2014, Pearlstone has partnered with Baltimore City Schools to create transformative experiences for city school students from some of Baltimore's most challenged neighborhoods. Currently, over 300 students come out to Pearlstone three times each year from Historic Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Eutaw-Marshburn Elementary School and Furman L. Templeton Elementary School.

Pearlstone plans to do more to help Greater Baltimore and beyond, but it needs to build new facilities to accommodate more community members

To see all of the amazing new partnership opportunities come to fruition, Pearlstone needs to build the new FarmVillage that prioritizes these programs and creates the critical space for these day and overnight programs throughout the year. The Farm Village will include six bunkhouses with capacity of up to 120 residents each night, along with bathrooms, kitchen and dining space. It will quickly become the heart of Pearlstone's burgeoning multicultural programming and the headquarters for its public-school programs. The Farm Village will catalyze Pearlstone's city school partnerships for years to come, impacting over 1,000 city school students each year through field trips, summer camp and more.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

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Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated



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We ask for a favorable report on the budget as proposed for the Pearlstone Center Master Plan.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community

Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.