

CB65-2015

BW



Barret Wessel <bwessel@terpmail.umd.edu>

Wed 9/14

CouncilMail

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| Action Items

To the County Council of Howard County, Maryland,

I am writing to urge you to pass CB65-2016 to temporarily prohibit certain development in the Tiber-Hudson Watershed while studies can be completed on the hydrological impacts of such development. I write not just as a resident of Howard County, but as a scientist who has worked in this field. I am in the second year of my PhD studies in Soil and Watershed Science at the University of Maryland. I have taken courses in Watershed Hydrology, Wetland Soils, Fluvial Geomorphology, and Soil Physics and Hydrology, to name a few. I have coauthored a peer-reviewed paper on a stream restoration method in the journal Ecological Engineering. I can tell you without a shadow of doubt that development in this watershed has impacted the hydrology within the watershed; the only questions are 1) to what extent these impacts have occurred, and 2) how can further development be done without exacerbating the situation. This bill will allow time to answer those questions. Considerable development has already occurred recklessly in this watershed, but much of it occurred in ignorance of potential consequences. We are no longer ignorant of those consequences.

Old Ellicott City is one of the most important sites in our county. From historic sites and the farmer's market to the night life and unusual shops, it helps to define Howard County. It will occasionally flood with or without continued development in the watershed, but that development causes floods to be more frequent and more severe. Please pass CB65-2016 and help to protect one of the most important sites that we have.

I would come testify in favor of this, but I am presently on a research trip in Denmark.

Sincerely,

Barret Wessel

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