

Date: 16 July 2018

Subject: CB56-2018 – HCCA Testimony for Ellicott City

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA testifying on their behalf and we are all in favor of this Bill.

We by all means appreciate the efforts of Councilman Weinstein who tried his best to do something positive in an attempt to mitigate the Ellicott City disasters. Councilman Weinstein all one can do is try and you certainly did this now and in September 2016. Jacqueline Kennedy is quoted as saying, "One man can make a difference and every man should try." To this end it looks like you have succeeded by having your colleagues join you almost two years later. This is a plus and you should be able to hold your head up high. There is another saying we believe is very appropriate by John Kennedy when he stated, "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

On September 19, 2016 our Treasurer, JD Smith testified for HCCA in favor of CB 65 regarding the same subject. We present you with this testimony for your reading pleasure. We stated back then and still feel the same way this bill, should apply to the entire county. The water in the Tiber-Hudson watershed is contained within the larger Patapsco watershed covering portions of Baltimore City and Carroll County, with the largest portions being in Howard, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties. To look at Tiber-Hudson alone is short sighted. A moratorium on permitting and inspection should be issued for the entire county.

Now we have some specific questions relating to the contents of CB56-2018 as follows:

Refer to Page 3, Lines 11, 16, and 21 – Regarding the Effective Date our suggestion is that it needs to extend until such time when the report is completed. It needs to go well beyond this date until ALL analysis has been fully satisfied by the experts and the public has had a chance to comment by conducting public forums to discuss the results to suggest any potential further improvements. All the criteria as stated on Page 4, Lines 3 thru 28 shall be accomplished and are pertinent to establishing the "Effective Date." The "Effective Date" shall not go into effect until such time. Please consider adding this clause to Page 7 of the Bill Lines 8 thru 13.

Refer to Page 6, Lines 16 thru 19 – It states, "That DPZ under the Development Review Process, filed on or before the "Effective Date" of this Act may proceed but shall not be considered for plan approval by DPZ until the expiration of this Act." The question is when is the expiration of this Act? We are curious under this proposed Bill how many projects will be affected?

Refer to Page 7, Lines 1 thru 3 – Do you have any reason why you might think this Act will be declared unconstitutional or illegal?

Refer to Page 7, Lines 5 thru 6 – Why do you think there is a possibility of a conflict?

We recommend rather than use the moratorium to study the issue in the Tiber-Hudson, use it to develop a comprehensive watershed plan for the entire county.

Thank You and we want to reiterate Councilman Jon Weinstein's monumental effort.



Stu Kohn
HCCA, President



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Howard County Council

September 19, 2016

CB 65 Testimony for HCCA

Good evening

I am JD Smith, Treasurer of Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA).

HCCA supports CB 65. The purpose of this act is to allow County government time to study whether development in the Tiber-Hudson watershed needs to be further restricted. We believe, however, that the bill, itself, is too restricted. It should apply to the entire county. The water in the Tiber-Hudson watershed is contained within the larger Patapsco watershed covering portions of Baltimore City and Carroll County, with the largest portions being in Howard, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties. To look at Tiber-Hudson alone is short sighted. A moratorium on permitting and inspection should be issued for the entire county.

Developers have submitted more than 100 proposals to build homes, shopping centers and other developments near Ellicott City since 2001, and most applications have been approved. Officials have acknowledged the county's approach to handling stormwater runoff has been piecemeal in some parts of the county. It has been so because an overall plan and systemic approach to the issue does not exist or has not been adhered to. The approach so far is a series of tactics without an overall strategy. The unique challenge in the historic district is that stormwater management must happen outside the flood-prone area in order to help it cope with future rains.

HCCA supports the bill primarily because of the moratorium. As to the need for a study, what could possibly be learned that hasn't been learned thousands of times before? There can be no doubt that there is a relationship between development

and flooding. We don't need to study whether or why. Development removes trees and other natural vegetation that serve to reduce flow and retain water. It regrades natural contours. It replaces pervious surfaces with streets, sidewalks and roads. It invites more people. And it often occurs in the absence of adequate public facilities to support it. A report titled 2006 Watershed Restoration Action Study, prepared by DPZ for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, found that in 2004 the Tiber-Hudson sub-watershed had the second highest percentage of impervious surface cover – 27% - than any other sub-watershed studied. In the ensuing 12 years it has possibly doubled. Technology cannot completely undo the effects of development and leave a stream hydrologically behaving as though the watershed had not been developed.

HCCA believes that more time will be required to complete a comprehensive study, much less develop a reasonable comprehensive plan. We propose that, in addition to extending to the entire county, the moratorium should be a year at least. We are curious as to how nine months was the chosen time frame. Rather than use the moratorium to study the issue in the Tiber-Hudson, use it to develop a comprehensive watershed plan for the entire county. Then follow the plan. Every project should be in service of an overall plan. Too many things are studied and too many reports are sitting on shelves gathering dust. Every project that is undertaken should start with the question, "How does this fit in with the plan?" Have definable, measurable goals and evaluate success in terms of defined outcomes instead of task force reports and unrelated projects



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Stu Kohn, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard County Citizens Association to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB-56 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Stu Kohn

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 16 July 18

Organization: HCCA

Organization Address: P.O. Box 88 ELICOTT CITY, MD 21041

Number of Members: 300

Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohn

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

July 16, 2018

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice, Ellicott City MD

CB – 56 SUPPORT, request amendments

Thank you for your attention to the concerns about storm water management in development and its effect on flooding. We support this Bill and make the following suggestions.

1. Please amend line 20 page 3 where it addresses the Zoning Board activity restrictions, where it reads “for piecemeal map amendment for property that drains...”, please amend to “for any map amendment for property that drains....” This will strengthen language and assure that zones like CEF are included in the restriction even though they don't have to prove piecemeal requirements of change or mistake, and we can avoid any wiggly procedural definition issues.

2. Please amend page 7 paragraph I, regarding the length of the effective period of this Bill. Clearly the intent of this Bill is have time to conduct the studies required within it, and have time for the Council to respond to the studies and implement suggestions. The effective date should be at least six months after the completion of the studies, if longer than the one year, to capture the need to extend this Bill's effective period if the studies are delayed, without the need for further legislation.

3. Please include the Plumtree watershed area and other specific neighborhood areas that have seen significant flooding increases in recent years in addition to the Tiber Watershed, so that improvement to all the most flood prone areas can be addressed and remedied at once.

4. Please do not exempt projects that adhere to certain labels of storm water management, like 100 year storms. We all know that these labels need to be reconsidered because statistical probabilities of a storm occurring each year, don't seem to weight current events strongly enough. I know that the term 100 year storm doesn't necessarily mean once in a hundred years but means a one percent chance of happening in the given year, but even considering that definition and not the vernacular understanding of once in a hundred years, these intense storms are clearly happening every few years, and the measurement of percentage of probability of occurrence clearly needs updating. Exempting any projects from this Bill's requirements should not happen, even if an expert is hired to testify they are mitigating to a two year storm. Words are not enough anymore, and we thank you for recognizing the need to study and implement stronger protections, for quantity and not just quality of runoff.

Lastly, please consider creating watershed residential unit allocation reductions going forward outside this effective period.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Lisa Markovitz, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

The People's Voice LLC to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB 50-2018 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lisa Markovitz

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 7/16/18

Organization: The People's Voice, LLC

Organization Address: 3209 Corporate Court

Elizabeth City, MD 21042

Number of Members: 2182

Name of Chair/President: Lisa Markovitz, President

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Good evening, thank you for hearing my testimony.

In 2016, I testified in support of Jon's legislation CB 65 for a temporary moratorium on development in the Tiber Hudson watershed as well as requested review of the existing stormwater management standards in the watershed, and requested that the implementation of flood mitigation projects begin immediately.

Today I am testifying in support of CB 56, the Tiber Branch Watershed Safety Act that will pause development in the watershed. And I am also still asking that the stormwater management standards be reviewed and that flood mitigation projects begin immediately.

With all due respect, it does feel like we are in a Groundhog Day situation and are having good deal of trouble making progress.

In December 2015, our Ellicott City Flood Workgroup released our findings that included the following: "Efforts should be made to return developed space to the natural environment where possible. Efforts should be made to protect and preserve the existing green and forested areas in the watershed. Where development must take place, it should be under the requirement of making no adverse impact on the environment. Development in the watershed has contributed to the flooding danger and this needs to be considered if proposals for new development occur."

This bill is coming late – development and redevelopment projects that have begun since the 2016 flood required greater scrutiny and review. Failures associated with the Burgess Mill II retaining wall are a case in point.

While I do support this bill, it is not doing enough and I hope that after you pass this bill, you will consider the following.

- The bill calls for a lot of analysis-based actions. While some analysis after this last event should certainly occur, we do know enough about the problems and potential solutions to move beyond analysis to implementation.
- Floodproofing needs to take higher priority, and finding ways to help businesses and residents floodproof structures in accordance with standards laid out by the Army Corps needs to be a priority.
- Review Montgomery County's Special Protection Area designation that in which a developer must follow strict requirements throughout the project in order to reduce the threat to critical natural resources. These areas are officially designated by County Council. Developers must locate and rate infiltratable soils, conduct Forest stand delineation and natural resources inventories, including identifying Erodible soils and areas of steep slopes and providing a drainage area map showing the upstream drainage area, hydrologically important fractures, and the location of existing developed areas and BMPs in the subwatershed
- Please review all the recommendations made by the Flood Workgroup in 2015 as they are still relevant and not enough progress has been made on them.
- Lastly, the Flood Workgroup needs to be formalized into a permanent entity with a proper organization structure and function to advise the County and serve as a public forum for

continued vetting of Ellicott City's flood problem as well as other areas of the County with persistent flooding. This is something that we had been talking about for the past 6 months but had been told needed to wait for completion of the Master Plan. Now the Flood Workgroup hangs in limbo when it is needed now more than ever before.

As a member of the Flood Workgroup, I and my fellow members are aware more than most, of the progress that has been made over the past several years. We are aware of all of the studies that have been completed, the walls that have been re-built, the designs for flood mitigation projects that are in progress. There is still a tremendous amount of education that is needed, programs to be built and implementation that needs to occur. As the Director of Howard EcoWorks, I can tell you that my organization has been and will continue to be a strong non-profit partner for these efforts. Thank you for all that you have done to mitigate flooding in Historic Ellicott City. I'm looking forward to working with the County on continued and amplified progress.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Lori Graf, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Maryland Building Industry Association to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB56 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / ~~opposition to~~ request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Lori Graf

Signature: 

Date: 7/16/2018

Organization: Maryland Building Industry Association, Howard

Organization Address: 11825 W. Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759

11825 W. Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759

Number of Members: 1024 companies (100,000 members)

Name of Chair/President: Jamie Fraser

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Good evening. I am Ross Taylor with an office address of 4100 College Avenue, Ellicott City Maryland. In 1895 my great, great grandmother, Rachel Caplan came to Main Street. Not long after my great grandfather Isaac Taylor began his first shop here. Five generations later here I am today to ask that Council Bill 56 be rescinded or amended to benefit Ellicott City.

We are all here, I believe, wanting the same thing. To reduce the potential for damage to both person and property in Ellicott City. Council Bill 56, as presently written does nothing to accomplish this, in fact it makes it worse.

My family and I own or are part owners of 10 properties on Main Street below Old Columbia Pike that were severely damaged in each of the last two major floods. We own another two dozen properties in the area which have been affected.

Our family's position is unique, however, in that we also own over 70 acres at the top of College Ave, a portion of which drains to the river which flows to Main Street. This bill without amendment will prevent us from putting in place at the top of the hill, with our own funds, the protections that will help benefit our property and the property of others at the bottom of the hill. We are requesting that this bill be amended to allow development with 100 year or better storm water management to proceed without delay so that private citizens like myself can continue to help the problem. Current regulations for this area already require 100 year flood control which will retain 8.5 inches of water in 24 hours, thus reducing runoff to Ellicott City with new development.

The suggested amendment to fix this is before you to permit these projects to move forward without delay. We understand the bill as written would permit projects that are exclusively for storm water management, but other than county or state sponsored projects, it is unreasonable to expect private citizens to do such work with no means of funding.

Our 70 acres at the top of the hill was built largely between 1907 and 1968, with acres of impervious surfaces, a hospital, and no storm water management to speak of other than to get the water safely off the land as was the accepted practice at that time. The new development we have planned will meet or exceed 100 Year Storm Water Management requirements and reduce, not increase, storm water runoff from this property. Signing this bill as written prevents this from happening. New development is not the problem, it's part of the solution.

We don't need more study or more regulations to figure out that new development is part of what will help; we've known it for over a year with the results of the McCormick Taylor Study. No relation by the way. This study says major infrastructure is required. Major infrastructure plans such as the Alexander Plan also need to be seriously considered.

Redeveloping my family property and each and every other project of others in the watershed will help, not hurt Ellicott City by meeting or exceed the existing 100 Year storm water requirements. Please amend or rescind Council Bill 56 as requested to permit new projects to proceed and to help protect Ellicott City from flooding. Thank you.

This amendment would be item 4 under paragraph D. *Exemptions:*

D.4. Any proposed construction, demolition, or re-construction on real property that drains in whole or in part to the Tiber Branch Watershed that reduces the flow of storm water to the Tiber River in Ellicott City through the incorporation of storm water management which meets or exceeds the 100 year flood management requirement.

Testimony regarding Council Bill 56 - Tiber Branch Watershed Safety Act

Melissa Metz, 3101 Chatham Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042

I fully support Council Bill 56-2018, which will pause development in the Old Ellicott City watershed for 12 months while mitigating factors are further studied. Further, I request that the Plumtree and Little Plumtree watershed (in the Valley Mede/Chatham neighborhoods) also be included in the bill.

1. I am very concerned about flooding in Ellicott City, as it places lives, livelihoods, and property in danger.

a) In the 2016 and 2018 floods, four people lost their lives. Several more people were rescued from the water in Old Ellicott City and Valley Mede/Chatham. This is a major concern, beyond any economic or other impact.

b) There was a large economic impact as well. In addition to public infrastructure and economic impact (on which data is available), damages to private property were significant. They were not fully assessed, however, they are likely in the range of \$100 million for the 2016 flood. The "case study" commissioned by the county government identified \$3.4 million in losses to private property. A community effort to gather more comprehensive information on damages found that there were an additional \$11.1 million in losses for 25 residential properties, 6 businesses, the 270 cars impacted, and an additional 23 commercial properties. As this represents only a fraction of properties and businesses in Old Ellicott City, the real scale of the damage is likely closer to \$100 million.

c) There were also flooding events that devastated property in Ellicott City in 2011 and 2014; and

d) The financial, physical, mental, and emotional impacts on people living in both the Tiber watershed and the Plumtree/Little Plumtree watershed cannot be quantified.

2. Run-off caused a substantial amount of the flooding, with water coming down from above and flowing down Frederick Road and Main Street. And as the draft legislation itself states, "development in the Tiber Branch Watershed may have contributed to flooding events in the Watershed. Planned and future development of property that drains in whole or in part to the Tiber Branch Watershed may pose a threat to public health, safety, and welfare in the Watershed."

3. Therefore, the 12-month pause in issuance of permits and approvals of the type specified in the draft bill, combined with the additional studies and recommendations on stormwater quantity management, zoning, and others as listed in the draft bill, are essential to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and property.

4. However, the draft bill includes only the fact that such studies will be conducted. In the interest of public safety and transparency and responsibility of our elected officials, I request that the results of such studies be presented and discussed in public hearings, and that substantial effort be made to inform the public of when the recommendations therein will be considered by the Planning Board, County Council, and others, so that we have an opportunity to make our voice heard on what comes out of these studies. That is the most important part.

Request to Include Plumtree/Little Plumtree watershed

1. I further request that, in addition to the Tiber watershed covered by the draft bill, that the Plumtree (also including Little Plumtree) watershed be included as well. This area includes the Chatham and Valley Mede neighborhoods, which were flooded in 2011, 2014, 2016, and 2018.

2. Flooding in the Plumtree watershed has been devastating:

a) In 2016 and again in 2018, more lives were nearly lost - and these lives were saved thanks to rescues by neighbors (not first responders). In 2016, a passenger had to be rescued from a vehicle in the water at Longview Drive and Brookmede Road, and three passengers had to be rescued from two vehicles at Chatham Rd. and Joey Dr.. Despite repeated calls to 911, no emergency personnel responded to these events in 2016. In 2018, a vehicle was swept into the culvert on Chatham Rd. and the two occupants were rescued by neighbors. One occupant was rescued using ropes, while the other was swept through the drainage pipe and rescued on the other side. In 2018, emergency personnel arrived 30 minutes after the rescues happened. Thus, flooding in the Plumtree watershed poses a substantial risk to people's lives - people needing to be rescued and the neighbors participating in the rescue.

b) In 2016 and 2018, the main access/egress points in to and out of Valley Mede and Chatham were flooded, rendering most of the neighborhood as islands with no egress potential - residents were literally "trapped" in the neighborhood as the flooding ensued.

c) The lack of emergency response and flooded ingress/egress could put lives at risk if a medical or other emergency were to occur at the time of flooding.

d) Multiple homes have been rendered uninhabitable, and as a result of the 2011 flood one house had to be completely torn down. Homeowners have sustained continual damage to their properties along with the loss of peace of mind and their personal safety.

3. The neighborhood suffers some of the same issues as development in the Tiber watershed - the neighborhood was developed before modern stormwater management and drainage standards were implemented. Most of the stormwater drainage structures were built based on 10-15 year storms as defined decades ago (and storms have increased in intensity since then so that a 10-15 year storm standard is less than a 10-15 year storm today - as evidenced by the increase in Howard County's 100-year storm benchmark after the 2016 flood). Therefore, the same approach of pausing development and developing recommendations on drainage and zoning, etc., is appropriate.

4. Another look at this watershed is also warranted because:

a) The hydraulic and hydrology study of Valley Mede/Chatham did not find solutions for flooding in Little Plumtree. Solutions are needed, especially since five people had to be rescued from this area in 2016 and 2018 combined.

c) The stream reconstruction on Longview, recommended by studies paid for by the county government, blew out in the 2018 flood.

d) All of the work to improve the stream bed behind/between Michael's Way, Ramblewood and Ramsey failed to control / accept the storm water that ravaged the neighborhood in 2018 as the 3000 block of Ramblewood was converted in to road-sized drainage swale that was depositing raging stormwater on to North Chatham (by passing the drainage culvert).

e) Public records of underground drainage throughout Valley Mede/Chatham are missing. In some cases, easements that were planned were never finalized, or the ownership of land is in limbo (i.e. developer who owned the land passed away and no successor has been found). Some neighbors have been told that they would have to repair/replace these structures, at their own cost - before the County would assume management/maintenance of the structures. Therefore, a thorough examination of existing underground drainage conduits must be completed in order to fully assess where the storm based flood waters are coming from.

5. Route 40 flooded in the 2018 flood as well. This area includes many businesses, economic activity, and jobs that are important to the county.

Thus, we urge you to include the Plumtree watershed, including any impacts downstream, in the bill. Thank you very much.



PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY, INC.

P. O. Box 96, Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 | info@patapsco.org

Chairperson Sigaty and Members of the County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City MD, 21043

Re: CB 56-2018
Temporarily Prohibiting Development in the Tiber Watershed

Chairperson Sigaty and Members of the County Council:

The Executive Committee of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway on July 11, 2018 voted to support Council Bill 56. A good portion of the Tiber Branch watershed is located in the State certified Patapsco Valley Heritage Area. Our Management Plan document, adopted by the State, profiles the historic resources and unique environmental features of the Tiber Branch watershed including the Ellicott City Historic District.

Our organization has worked diligently through the 2 major flood events. After the most recent May 27, we again conducted clean up efforts with the help of over 155 volunteers. We removed more than 3 tons of trash from adjacent streams, stream banks and the Patapsco River.

We stand ready to participate with other members of the community and Howard County to seek solutions that will protect the Tiber Branch watershed and preserve the historical resources within our Heritage Area while providing safety to residents, business and visitors. We concur that these solutions need additional time for implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria Goodman".

Victoria Goodman
PHG Vice President

CC: Lindsey Baker, PHG Executive Director

PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization working to preserve, protect, interpret, & restore the environment, history, and culture of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, Victoria Goodman, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Patapsco Heritage Greenway to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Bill 54-2018 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Victoria Goodman

Signature: Victoria Goodman

Date: July 16, 2018

Organization: Patapsco Heritage Greenway

Organization Address: P.O. Box 96, Ellicott City, MD 21041

Chair/President: Grace Kuszak



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Anjel Scarborough, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB56-2018 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.
(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: Anjel L. Scarborough

Signature: 

Date: 7/16/2018

Organization: St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Organization Address: 3695 Rogers Ave, Ellicott City MD 21043

3695 Rogers Ave, Ellicott City MD 21043

Number of Members: 120

Name of Chair/President: The Rev. Anjel Scarborough

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.

Kovacs, Julia

From: Kovacs, Julia
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 9:32 AM
To: Kovacs, Julia
Cc: 'jtk409A@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: testimony

The moratorium bill needs to be amended two ways. First, the Tiber Branch Watershed map, Exhibit A to the bill, needs to be replaced with the Tiber-Hudson Watershed map that was the FIRST Exhibit A to your 2016 moratorium bill. Second, the bill needs to be amended to allow zoning re-designation during the moratorium so that the watershed zoning may be changed to prohibit all clearcutting of standing forests and grading of steep slopes in the watershed.

On my first point, the watershed map you introduced with this bill is significantly smaller than the watershed map you introduced with the 2016 moratorium bill. The 2016 exhibit included Bonnie Branch Road, Beechwood Road, and the lower part of Ilchester Road and surrounding land. These roads and surrounding land need to be included in the protected area.

Bonnie Branch Road is much like New Cut Road. As we know, the May 27 flood did \$7 million in damage to New Cut Road. Bonnie Branch Road is a designated scenic road that winds along the Bonnie Branch, a Patapsco River tributary. It is an environmentally sensitive area with steep slopes and still some standing forests.

During the past 10 years, the DPZ has allowed several dense in-fill subdivisions along Bonnie Branch Road, resulting in clearcutting of forest land and leveling hills. During each heavy storm, the roadway is flooded out by the Bonnie Branch and the four or more other tributaries that bring run-off from these and other upstream developments. During the May 27 flood, run-off caused the Bonnie Branch to become a raging river. The velocity of the water tore out parts of the roadway and busted the public sewer line resulting in pollution of the stream and Patapsco River which is right down the road.

Beechwood Road is forested and hilly with a stream that leads downhill to the Bonnie Branch. The sewer line connection that was busted in the May 27 flood is at the intersection of Beechwood and Bonnie Branch Road.

The lower part of Ilchester from Beechwood to the river is itself an extremely steep slope. During the May 27 flood, the velocity of the water rushing downhill along the road ripped out parts of the road so deep that the natural gas pipeline was fully exposed.

Most of District One is already “built out” as I read one developer say in an article. So, the only land remaining for development is land that in all common sense should be considered off limits from in-fill subdivision – forested, hilly land in the streams and river watershed. To protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of the residents, to protect our natural resources, and to prevent further costly damage to our infrastructure in this area, further development of the area denoted in the FIRST Exhibit A to the 2016 moratorium bill, must be prohibited.

On my second point, the bill needs to be amended to allow rezoning of this environmentally sensitive area to prohibit further in-fill subdivision as soon as possible in January.