

Sayers, Margery

From: Mark Fradkin <mfradkin55@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 6:20 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB38-2019: Protect This Watershed

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council

MD
US

RE: CB38-2019: Protect This Watershed

Dear Howard County Council,

As a resident of Howard County, I am very concerned about the waivers that are still being issued for developments impacting the Patapsco Lower North Branch, even though this watershed experiences stormwater and flooding issues.

Waivers should be the exception, not the rule.

We are counting on the county to protect our environmental resources filter, slow, and absorb stormwater runoff before it becomes a problem.

Sincerely,
Mr. Mark Fradkin
2535 Painted Sunset Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(443) 844-9313

Sayers, Margery

From: ma954@aol.com
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 2:22 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support CB38-2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members:

I am writing you today in strong support of CB38-2019. As a Howard County resident living within the Ellicott City Historic District, this bill is especially pressing. My family and I live on Mulligans Hill Lane. The 2016 flood left our property with only minor damage; the 2018 flood, however, saw our hilltop home and our neighbor's home severely impacted by runoff and flooding. This was directly as a result of the development of 20 homes between the 2 floods. Waivers were granted, retention ponds failed, and the failure washed through our yards and into town. It's incredible the impact just one small development had on our property. This needs to stop; we value our town and its cultural history along with our fellow OEC residents' and their homes. We must act now to protect this watershed.

Thank you for your time,
Mary-Anne Mulcahy
3819 Mulligan Hill Lane

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Gregory Care <gregory.p.care@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 2:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB38-2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the County Council:

I write in support of CB38-2019. As a resident of the watershed that this bill seeks to protect, I can't imagine a more necessary measure to carry out the will of the members of my community.

Like the Tiber Branch Watershed, the Patapsco Lower North Branch Watershed faces serious consequences from development and use of the land that does not take adequate and careful account of environmental factors. There are vulnerable homes and natural resources at risk, and once the harm of aggressive development where it doesn't belong is done, there is no undoing it. The people of this community issued a mandate to this Council and the County Executive to take common sense measures to protect us from the harms of overly aggressive development. Here it is.

“Build first and ask questions later” has ruined too much for us to continue with the status quo. The Department of Planning and Zoning has reflexively approved waivers for development by reading the County Code in a way that cannot be reasonably supported, which the Planning Board has historically accepted at face value. Challenges to these decisions, suggesting key data that was overlooked or ignored, have proven that the system is not working as intended. A change is needed to the County Code to address the problem at its root. This means making the intent clearer that, for example, when the law says grading on steep slopes won't be accepted without good reason, it doesn't mean just any old reason and it certainly doesn't mean that, without the waiver, the developer can't build more units and thus make more money. Larger profits for a private party isn't a valid factor in decisions that affect the stakes held by an entire community, but the maximized profit concept seems to have infiltrated the thinking of those who take direction from you. That tail-wagging-the-dog thinking is what has created degradation that we have to act now to stop. CB38 will go a long way to stopping it.

CB38 explicitly calls for vitally important data to be considered in making decisions about developments, a concept which should be beyond dispute. Indeed, much of the data that CB38 seeks to include as part of the review process was created for exactly that purpose. One such datapoint is the Targeted Ecological Areas designation that unbiased ecology experts at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources made to selected areas because, after reviewing 30 years of information, they have proven to be “lands and watersheds of high ecological value” and “**the best of the best**” in our state. See:

https://data.imap.maryland.gov/datasets/a56174cc59914d44812184ee925b9e51_1?geometry=-98.202%2C35.77%2C-56.345%2C41.76. The Maryland Department of Planning recently noted that the Targeted Ecological Areas and related GreenPrint/Parcel Evaluation Tool were intended to be used by local authorities in making land use decisions like whether and to what extent to approve development. See: <https://mdplanningblog.com/2019/05/29/maryland-department-of-natural-resources-has-developed-a-tool-for-assessing-the-value-of-land-across-the-maryland/>.

It seems to me and my neighbors that, before our public servants approve a development that will grade into steep slopes, deforest, pave, and build on “**the best of the best**” in our county and state, they ought to consider

that impact. Inexplicably, the Department of Planning and Zoning has gone on record to the Planning Board that it does not and will not consult this resource and will not do so unless you tell them they must. Common sense says it is time to do that.

To the members of the Council who don't represent the district in which this watershed is located, I humbly suggest that bills like this implicate the principle of comity and deference to the overwhelming support this bill has in our community. I think it is also relevant that what we do to our natural resources in one place affects them everywhere. Indeed, that is the science of ecology. Help us help both ourselves and everyone else.

Vote to approve CB38. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Greg Care
Resident of District One
Ellicott City, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Meg Boyd <boydfamily11@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 1:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB 38

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmembers,

I am writing in strong support of CB 38 and the much needed and long overdue protections it provides for our environment and public safety.

Thank you,

Meg Boyd

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Schisler <laschis@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 8:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support CB38-2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council Members:

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> I am writing you today in strong support of CB38-2019. As a Howard County resident living within the Ellicott City Historic District, this bill is especially pressing. I live on Mulligans Hill Lane, during the 2016 flood our property thankfully suffered only minor damage, the 2018 flood however saw our hilltop home and our neighbors home severely impacted by runoff and flooding. In between these two floods a development of 20 homes constructed, waivers were granted, retention ponds failed, and the failure washed through our yards and into town. It's incredible the impact just one small development had on our property. This needs to stop, if we value our cultural history, if we value our fellow citizens and their homes and livelihood, we must act to protect this watershed, and we must act now.

>

> Many Thanks,
> Linda Schisler
> 3819 Mulligans Hill Lane
> Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Christopher Schisler <metalmanec@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 6:38 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please Support CB38-2019

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Council Members:

I am writing you today in strong support of CB38-2019. As a Howard County resident living within the Ellicott City Historic District, this bill is especially pressing. I live on Mulligans Hill Lane, during the 2016 flood our property thankfully suffered only minor damage, the 2018 flood however saw our hilltop home and our neighbors home severely impacted by runoff and flooding. In between these two floods a development of 20 homes constructed, waivers were granted, retention ponds failed, and the failure washed through our yards and into town. It's incredible the impact just one small development had on our property. This needs to stop, if we value our cultural history, if we value our fellow citizens and their homes and livelihood, we must act to protect this watershed, and we must act now.

Many Thanks,
Christopher Schisler
3819 Mulligans Hill Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Marisa McCurdy <marisahiggins@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 9:41 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB 38 - Protect-this-Watershed Bill

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please, please, please pass CB38!!! We need to protect the Patapsco Lower North Branch watershed! We can all see the detrimental effect of overdevelopment in our immediate neighborhoods and need to it stop. I live in a historic neighborhood tucked back in Patapsco State Park just above the Patapsco River. We love this area but are scared for its future. Please pass CB 38 to help protect our watershed!

Marisa McCurdy
6802 Norris Lane
Elkridge, MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: BVivrette <bvivrette@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 3:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB38 support

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council,

Please protect our watershed and pass CB38. It is vital legislation to the future of our local environment, as well as life safety. We must be responsible and prioritize this as we face serious climate change head on.

Thank you,
Brian Vivrette

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Lou Clark <doctorfx_99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 2:16 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support of CB38-2019
Attachments: HCBC CB39-2019 (3).docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please distribute the attached letter to all Howard County Councilmembers.

Members of Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) supports CB38-2019, introduced by Councilperson Walsh. We are, of course, supportive of measures to help mitigate flooding in Ellicott City. But our support for the bill is occasioned by its benefits to our environment and especially to the birds that inhabit it. As is well known, the forests on private lands upstream from Ellicott City continue to erode due to development. This bill would curtail waivers of Forest Conservation, Floodplain, and Steep Slope regulations in the Patapsco North Branch, and further bar development within 100 feet of the floodplain and 50 feet of steep slopes. It would also prohibit the payment of in lieu fees to avoid open space and forest conservation requirements.

We believe these measures will help preserve habitat for both migrant and resident birds as well as some Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS) such as Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager. All these species were confirmed within the area of application during the Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia conducted 2002-2006. They continue to occur there today. The private lands preserved will also help buffer the core of Patapsco Valley State Park, which is a stronghold for FIDS, and has been declared an Important Bird Area for that very reason. Edge habitats are deleterious to FIDS, and keeping the edge back from the core of PVSP will help prevent nest predators such as crows and cowbirds from pillaging the nests of FIDS such as Scarlet Tanagers. Our members can also attest as to how wooded yards in the area of application host migrant warblers, such birds as Black-throated Blue, Cape May, and the rare Bay-breasted Warblers during spring and fall migration.

For these reasons, HCBC supports CB38-2019 and asks that you, too, support it to benefit both flood mitigation, as well as our resident and migrant birds.

The Howard County Bird Club is a volunteer organization of over 200 members, which seeks to promote the knowledge, development, protection, and conservation of bird life and other naturally occurring species and their habitats. We are a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (www.mdbirds.org).

Thank you for consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Kurt R. Schwarz
Conservation Chair
9045 Dunloggin Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-461-1643
krschwa1@verizon.net

Mary Lou Clark
President
5153 Morningside Lane
Ellicott City MD 21043
(410) 465-4061
doctorfx_99@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Tammy Bean <saveoldec@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support For CB-38

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good Afternoon Council Members,

I am writing this in support of CB-38. Howard County has seen the effects of developers and the waivers and approval of alternative compliance for far too long. Howard County is a beautiful suburb, let's keep it that way.

No more allowing developers to do as they please, no more "hardship" being used when they cannot make enough money off of a development project. No more allowing developers to buy their way out of compliance!! We are in a climate crisis, trees and green space MUST be saved at all costs. Let's leave a beautiful county for future generations.

Thank you,
Tammy L Bean

Sayers, Margery

From: Bookkeeping <joseph@josephhauser.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 11:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 38

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council persons,

I highly support Ms. Walsh's proposed legislation.

As a property owner who has suffered more than 100,000.00 in damage from my neighbors runoff,

I would gratefully support all of you who commit to support Ms. Walsh's bill. It is time to act for the good, not for the connected.

Joseph Hauser

Sayers, Margery

From: Gayle Killen <killchar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 10:59 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Pass CB-38

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Greetings, Council members.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our community. I live in the historic district of Ellicott City, directly on Main St about halfway between Rogers Ave and Ellicott Mills Drive. We are a small but mighty and very special watershed. We absolutely must increase the vegetation protecting our steep slopes.

There's no other way to protect historic value, character and the families that have carried this age old town through generations. I'm terrified of the hills around us, especially when trees are removed. Old practices must end, we simply will not survive any attempts to accelerate runoff. We must learn to slow the flow at every chance. Elaborate terraces would be lovely but just simple plants will do. Start by thinking about "additive landscaping". If a slope needs stabilization, add to it! Do not take away any more vegetation.

Please support CB-38 and grab every opportunity to add vegetation to our steep slopes.

V/R,
Gayle Killen
8572 Main St
Ellicott City, MD
21043
443-467-1142