HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING November 18, 2019 7:00 pm CB 62-2019 In Favor With suggested strengthening amendments

Meagan Braganca 3720 Valerie Carol Court Ellicott City, MD 21042

Once upon a time there were 6 trillion trees on earth. Then civilization began, and to date we have managed to destroy half.

Forests are critical to the planet & all species for their ability to preserve water quality, foster biodiversity, provide critical ecosystems, and store carbon. In fact, nearly 45% of land-stored carbon is stored in forests.

In an effort to save our forests, the United Nations launched a billion tree project, now turned into the trillion tree project. It's goal is to restore, reforest and protect a trillion trees by 2050. It's a lofty goal, but a recent study published in Science magazine shows that by just planting half of that, or 500 billion trees, taking up 900 million hectares we can sequester up to 200 gigatonnes of carbon from the atmosphere- that's 2/3 of what humans have belched into the atmosphere since the industrial revolution.

A cautionary note, though, it will take decades for the planted trees of these current initiative to become mature enough to store the kind of carbon we're talking about. In addition—if we continue on this climate trajectory—even if we were to limit warming to the 1.5+C target, some parts of the tropics will grow too hot to support forests, some estimates are as high as 220 million hectares.

Here's more bad news: To date, between 13-14 billion trees have been planted through the program which was launched initially 10 years ago.

We are destroying 15 billion trees a year for farmland expansion and human products . There is some natural sprouting happening but still....we're losing much faster than we can replant.

On top of that, these stats don't even take species, age, size, qualities and contiguous forest data into consideration --- all factors that can make a huge difference.

Larger amounts of biomass=larger amounts of carbon storage

Therefore, it is critical that we make efforts to have net gains of trees and forest cover in every corner of the globe. The only thing that can do that is aggressive legislation everywhere, including here in Howard County.

I support CB62-2019 WITH the additional suggestions made by the Smarter Growth Alliance, including:

- Expanding the definitions of Historic Site and Historic Structure to include properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Nation's list of historic places worthy of preservation. (Section 16.1201, Definitions)
- Adding isolated Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) to the list of Forest Retention Priorities. TEAs represent the most ecologically valuable places in the state as determined by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Howard County's TEAs include some of the few remaining natural areas. (Section 16.1205, Forest Retention Priorities)
- Increasing reforestation thresholds by 10% for each land use category to more closely approach the goal of no-net-loss. I've just explained why this is critical. (Section 16.1206, Reforestation)
- 4. Increasing the reforestation ratio for sites within the same watershed to 1:1 (from 1/2:1) and to 1.5:1 (from 1:1) for sites outside the same watershed, recognizing that replanted trees do not provide the same ecological benefits as mature trees. [It's not even close] (Section 16.1206, Reforestation)
- 5. Limiting approval/denial authority for variances to the Director of Planning and Zoning, the Administrator of Office of Community Sustainability, and the Director of Recreation and Parks for all variance applications—REMOVING the Planning Board as an authoritative entity on this subject. (Section 16.1216, Variances)
- 6. I also join them in a request to increase the currently stated fee schedule for the fee-in-lieu in CR142.
- 7. And finally, to further increase the fines for violations to forest conservation laws.

Thank you

Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Howard County Council George Howard Building 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CB62-2019, Forest Conservation & CR142-2019, Forest Conservation Fee-in-Lieu

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to protect the county's outstanding environmental assets to preserve and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by residents.

We strongly support the proposed changes to local forest conservation law that will not only bring the County into compliance with the Maryland Forest Conservation Act, but also help to better retain priority forests and reforest where needed. Specifying the replanting of native trees will help grow forests that nurture wildlife and provide consistent habitat with other adjoining forested areas. The Site Design Requirements, which stipulate that residential developments with more than one acre of obligation shall meet 75% of it on site, are important for storm water management and for residents to benefit from the natural environment. And using the State standard of "unwarranted hardship" for review and consideration of variances will protect champion trees.

We thank you for taking action to protect and maintain Howard County's forested land. To that end, we ask that you consider the following strengthening amendments to CB62-2019.

 Expanding the definitions of Historic Site and Historic Structure to include properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Nation's list of historic places worthy of preservation. (Section 16.1201, Definitions)

- 2. Adding isolated Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) to the list of Forest Retention Priorities. TEAs represent the most ecologically valuable places in the state as determined by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Howard County's TEAs include some of the few remaining natural areas. (Section 16.1205, Forest Retention Priorities)
- 3. Increasing reforestation thresholds by 10% for each land use category to more closely approach the goal of no-net-loss. (Section 16.1206, Reforestation)
- 4. Increasing the reforestation ratio for sites within the same watershed to 1:1 (from ½:1) and to 1.5:1 (from 1:1) for sites outside the same watershed, recognizing that replanted trees do not provide the same ecological benefits as mature trees. (Section 16.1206, Reforestation)
- 5. Limiting approval/denial authority for variances to the Director of Planning and Zoning, the Administrator of Office of Community Sustainability, and the Director of Recreation and Parks in agreement to provide consistent and multi-disciplinary review for all variance applications. This amendment would require removing the Planning Board as an approving/denying entity. (Section 16.1216, Variances)

We also support CR142-2019, which increases forest conservation fee-in-lieu. To ensure that fee-in-lieu is only used when other options are not possible, we ask that you consider further increasing the fees from \$1.25 and \$1.50 per square foot to the \$2.00 - \$3.00 per-square-foot range to better match replanting costs and lost ecosystem services of mature trees.

Finally, we ask that you **further increase fines for violations** to discourage the practice of willfully violating forest conservation laws to reduce project costs.

We thank you for your kind consideration of these comments and for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Audubon Maryland-DC
David Curson
Director of Bird Conservation

Maryland Conservation Council Paulette Hammond President Clean Water Action Emily Ranson Maryland Program Coordinator

Coalition for Smarter Growth
Stewart Schwartz
Executive Director

Community Ecology Institute Chiara D'Amore, Ph.D. President

Earth Forum of Howard County
Sue L. Harris
Director

HARP Lisa Soto Chair

Howard County Citizens Association Stu Kohn President

Howard County Conservancy Meg Boyd Executive Director

Howard County Sierra Club Carolyn Parsa Chair Maryland League of Conservation Voters Kim Coble Executive Director

Maryland Ornithological Society Kurt R. Schwarz Conservation Chair

Patapsco Heritage Greenway Mark Southerland, Ph.D. Vice President for Environment

Preservation Maryland Kimberly Golden Brandt Director of Smart Growth Maryland

Safe Skies Maryland Mark Southerland, Ph.D. Legislative Director

Savage Community Association Susan Garber Board Chair

The People's Voice, LLC Lisa M. Markovitz President

Transition Howard County Margo Duesterhaus President

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

Bruce A. Harvey Testimony 11/18/19 Howard County Council CB62-2019

My name is Bruce Harvey and I live in Fulton, MD 20759 and am majority owner of Williamsburg Homes. I am testifying against CB62-2019.

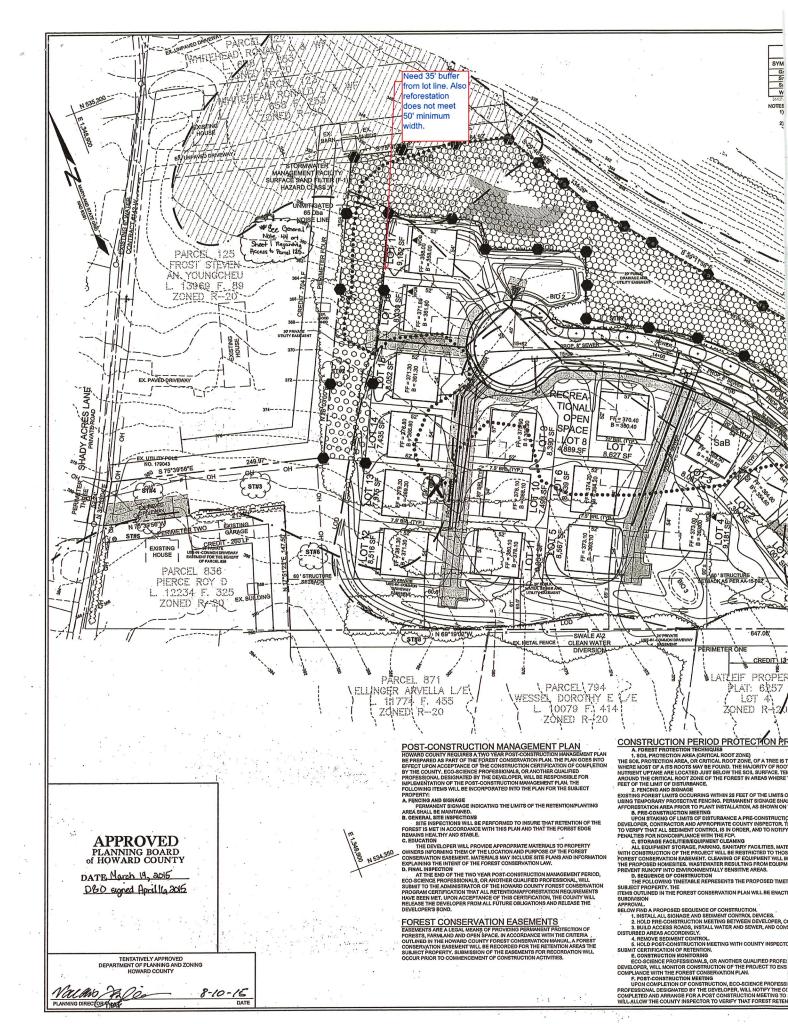
I am going to focus my testimony on the proforma impact of the new bill on a project where we're currently active called Doves Fly in Fulton. I have attached the approved Forest Conservation Plan for the site and highlighted the impact of the new legislation. Doves Fly is an 8.3-acre site subdivided under R-ED zoning where approximately 50% of the land is dedicated to open space including forest conservation. The site was subdivided into 16 lots, the allowable density. All the required 2.15 acres of forest conservation was provided on site. However, under the new legislation, the impact on the site is listed below.

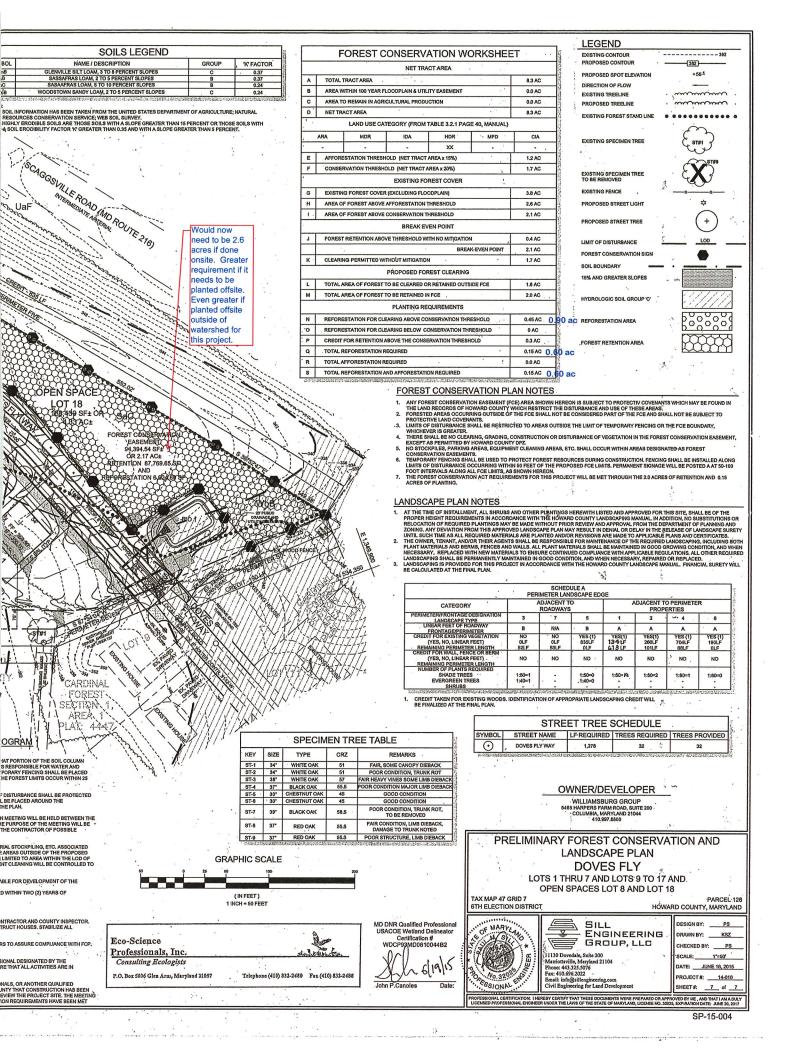
- 1. The required forest conservation is increased is 2.6 acres from 2.15 acres. The additional forest conservation would have to be provided off-site at a 2:1 ratio or a 3:1 ration if not within the same watershed.
- 2. If you look at the plan, you'll see that some of the forest conservation onsite (reforestation portion) would not be allowed because it does not meet the required 50' width requirement; so even more would have to moved offsite at a 2:1 ratio or 3:1 ratio.
- 3. In addition, some of the forest conservation abuts lot lines which would not meet the 35' buffer requirement in the new bill. This applies to retained forest and reforested area.
- 4. Since so much of the onsite forest conservation couldn't be provided, it potentially could not meet the minimum requirement of 75% of forest conservation being onsite.
- 5. Minimum lot size in R-ED is 6,000 square feet, so can't just make the lots smaller. Only way to process for subdivision would be to reduce the number of lots.

Without substantial amendment, the new forest conservation bill will not allow projects to achieve their allowed density. In its current state, it isn't a plan to conserve forest, it is an anti-development bill. That appears to be what this council and the administration are pursuing, since APFO and School Surcharge Fees are also promoting less development, but we need to be clear that's what we're doing.

One very crucial item to me is that you can't look at Forest Conservation changes without considering zoning. If you want to preserve additional forest and have better quality forest conservation areas, then you also need to look at the zoning regulations and what's allowed. If we cluster more, change setbacks, allow greater densities, then the two can work in tandem. We really need to do that for all these development related bills.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.







RE: CB62-19: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

November 12, 2019

Howard County Council George Howard Building 2430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043 councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) and its parent organization, the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), support CB62-09., the Forest Conservation Act. We applaud any effort to protect trees and habitat from development, and believe CB62-10 would help promote efforts to preserve said trees and habitat.

This bill would enhance forest conservation measures so as to meaningfully protect trees and forested areas that are absolutely critical for local and migratory bird species. As recently reported in the journal Science, North America has lost almost 30% of its birds (nearly 3 billion) since the 1970s, in large part due to habitat loss. Forests, needless to say, are a vital habitat for many bird species, in particular Forest Interior Dwelling Species (FIDS).

We have witnessed profound declines in FIDS here in Maryland. Between the First Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas (1983-1987) and the Second (2002-2006) the number of blocks occupied by breeding FIDS such as Eastern Whip-poor-wills decreased by 57%,³

 $^{^{1}}$ Rosenberg, Kenneth, et al, Decline of the North American avifauna, Science, October 4, 2019

https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6461/120.full?ijkey=dcWYzH9MGv13I&keytype=ref&siteid=sci

² Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays. A Guide to the Conservation of Forest Interior Dwelling Birds in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, June 2000.

³ Ellison, Walter ed, 2nd Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia, Baltimore, 2010, page 197.

Cerulean Warblers by 40%,⁴ Kentucky Warblers by 38%,⁵ Hooded Warblers by 10%,⁶ and Veery by 5%.⁷ This sharp decline over a miniscule amount of time (relative to an ecological timeframe) is one of many red flags that indicate bird species are seriously threatened by habitat loss. For some FIDS the rate of decrease in occupied blocks on the Western Shore was greater than the state-wide decrease, highlighting the significance of lost forests in central Maryland.

While we support the bill, we are puzzled that reforestation ratios seem to fall far short of the "no-net-loss" standard of Maryland's Forest Conservation Act. We would hope to see this corrected in an amendment or a subsequent bill. We suggest these changes:

Strengthened fee-in-lieu regulation, including a new maximum of 1-acre forest obligation that can be met through fee-in-lieu in a residential development. We propose raising the new fee of \$1.25-\$1.50 per square foot to \$2.00-\$3.00 to better match replanting costs and lost ecosystem services of mature trees that were cleared.

Improved stewardship of Priority Forests, including adding the Green Infrastructure Network to retention and reforestation priorities, as well as requiring its inclusion on development plans. It is critically important that the few remaining natural areas in the county be retained, so we would propose that small Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) also be included and that minimum widths for all buffers and reforestation areas be increased to 100 feet.

Reforestation ratios to mitigate forest clearing have been increased from 1/4:1 to 1/2:1. We would like to see the ratio be increased to 1:1, recognizing that the ecological and climate benefits of replanted trees are hundreds of times lower than mature trees that are cleared.

Reforestation thresholds (i.e., determining the amount of forest that can be cleared without mitigation) are not addressed in this bill and should be increased to more closely approach the no-net-loss goal of the Forest Conservation Act (FCA). We propose that the amount of forest that can cleared with mitigation be no more than 50% for any land use

The need to preserve our forests is evident. Not only will they provide crucial habitat for our bird species, they buffer streams, keep pollutants out of the Chesapeake Bay, mitigate the effects of climate change,⁸ increase property values as much as 20 percent,⁹ and improve mental and general human health. To protect our forests and to help reverse the

⁴ Ibid, page 345.

⁵ Ibid, page 363.

⁶ Ibid, page 369.

⁷ Ibid, page 299.

⁸ National Public Radio. Trees Are Key To Fighting Urban Heat — But Cities Keep Losing Them, September 4, 2019,

https://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=755349748

⁹ Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Forest Loss: Trees Play a Crucial Role in Keeping Our Waters Clean, https://www.cbf.org/issues/forest-loss/, viewed October 2, 2019.

alarming trends we are seeing across many bird species in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and beyond, we ask you to support Bill 62-19.

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), which is state-wide and has about 1,800 members, and 15 Chapters.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Clark President Howard County Bird Club 5153 Morningside Lane Columbia, MD 21043 410-465-4061 doctorfx_99@yahoo.com

Kurt R. Schwarz
Conservation Chair
Maryland Ornithological Society/Howard County Bird Club
9045 Dunloggin Ct., District 1
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-461-1643
krschwa1@verizon.net

CC: County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball



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

I, SUSAN GAR ber (name of individual)	, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)	
HOWARD COUNTY CITYER ASSOCIATION OF THE COMMISSION,	tath ato deliver testimony to the
County Council regarding CB-62 Forest Conse	work express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)	
support for y opposition to / request to amend this legislation.	
(Please circle one.)	
Printed Name: 5USAN GARBER	
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Signature: Lesan Harlie	
Signature: XUSAN TANUL	
Date: $11/(8/19)$	
Organization: HCCA	
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Organization Address: P.O. Box 89	
Ellicott City, MP	
Number of Members: 500	
Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohn	
This form can be submitted electronically via email to <u>councilmail@howa</u> the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Publ	
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Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961... The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: November 18, 2019

Subject: HCCA Testimony – CB-62-2019. Strong Support. Requesting Strengthening Amendments

Good evening Council Members,

I'm Susan Garber testifying **in support** of CB-62 on behalf of the Howard County Citizen Association, HCCA, where I frequently 'speak for the trees'

This legislation needs to be supported because trees are our best single tool to fight climate change.

Trees serve many positive functions, including:

- sequestering carbon dioxide and producing oxygen needed to breathe.
- intercepting rainfall, slowing and allowing for absorption that prevents run-off and flooding.
- stabilizing the soil on steep slopes with their root structure.
- providing serene beauty
- · creating a measurable positive effect on our physical and mental health
- providing habitat for the woodland animals and all manner of rare, threatened and endangered species.

Clearly we need to save the trees in order to save our planet.

And bottom line, most importantly,

We need to save our trees to save our children. Failure to pass this bill jeopardizes their future in measurable ways.

Trees are NOT just an inconvenient and expensive nuisance, to be removed in order to provide a blank slate on which a computer can generate an uninspiring site plan that looks pretty much like every other.

The lack of compliance with the State's Forest Conservation regulations for two decades, coupled with foolishly valuing unlimited development over our future well-being, has resulted in the steady decimation of our forested lands. It has increased flooding, reduced quality of life, and created the need, to construct ridiculously expensive shade shelters' in our school playgrounds and parks to protect our children from skin cancer.

We urge the Council to **emphasize prioritizing conservation** of existing mature trees because **all trees are not created equal** in terms of the benefits they deliver. While reforestation efforts are worthwhile, they can't compare with the retention of mature trees.

Nowhere is this more critical than in our densely populated east.

The statistics are astounding. One mature 100' tree produces the oxygen of 1000 little trees. (Nowak, David J.; Hoehn, Robert; Crane, Daniel E. Oxygen Production by Urban Trees in the United States. Arboriculture & Urban Forestry 2007.33(3):220–226.) Yet two 3" caliper trees are all developers have been required to plant to replace specimen trees 30 inches or more in diameter. [The 44,000 native trees replanted through the County Executive's laudable program this year will eventually produce benefits down the road and we sincerely applaud the effort. But it is none the less frightening to think that these 44,000 trees, should every one survive, would replace only 44 specimen trees, trees which DPZ allowed to be removed –rather than requiring an adjustment in a site plan.

Mature trees "intercept," or prevent from hitting the ground, far more rainwater per year than young ones. This allows more time for absorption. It reduces the amount of storm water that flows into sewers and rivers, which frequently causes flooding and carries pollutants. The amount of rainfall intercepted by a 40 year old tree vs. a 5 year old one can be forty times as great. (McPherson, et al. 2006. More about tree size and interception.)

Another little mentioned issue is TREE EQUITY. People of lower income typically have fewer trees to benefit them. In Howard County trees have migrated to the west. You should not worsen the tree equity situation by considering, as AA County did, **reducing** conservation standards in densely populated areas like Laurel. Those living in the eastern part of the county should demand tree equity.

There was a time when developers like Jim Rouse sought to preserve as many trees as possible ON a residential lot. He recognized that mature tree(s) would qualify an individual lot to command a premium price. I'm told that in Columbia's early days, signs were erected which said, "Other than you, this tree is the most valuable thing on this lot."

Much of what contributes to soulless treeless development today is the declaration by developers— embraced by the DPZ and DPW-- that "**this** is how we build today." "This" means we strip and regrade and go for maximum density over good design or even good marketing sense. (Real example: a proposed site plan for a parcel surrounded with forest on 3 sides and a river on two—with NO units facing either feature!)

Real estate and building representatives will say the proposed Forest Conservation Act could cause a housing shortage and sprawl with more people just working, but not

living, in Howard County. They ridiculously assert there will be a decline in air quality from longer commutes, when retaining and replanting trees is needed to clean the air for our very existence.

But the true priority issue to the development community is that forest conservation cuts down on the buildable space on a property. That correlates to fewer units in a residential development or less square feet to rent in a commercial one; thereby less profit margin. But just as developers were subsidized with ridiculously inadequate school impact fees for decades, so too has the county subsidized their profits by not having forest conservation regulations compliant with state law. Worse yet, former administrations failed to enforce the lesser ones we have.

It is our opinion that the development community already **owes** residents of Howard County, and their children in overcrowded schools, **a great debt**. **Now is not the time to subsidize them further at the sacrifice of our health and well being by watering down this legislation**. Previous administrations and department heads permitted—even encouraged—the destruction of our forests with over use of waivers, administrative adjustments, etc. for the mythical profit from development property taxes

The HCCA was proud to sign on with 15 other organizations supporting this bill and suggesting additional means to strengthen it. We refer you to that joint letter from the Smarter Growth Alliance. Please pass this Bill and consider strengthening amendments, not ones which will weaken it.

21 reasons why forests are important

Russell McLendon September 16, 2019, 9:57 a.m.

Don't miss the forest for the trees. Here are a few reminders why woodlands are wonderful — and worth protecting.



Sunlight filters through a forest in Union Wood near Ballygawley, Ireland. (Photo: Mark Carthy/Shutterstock)

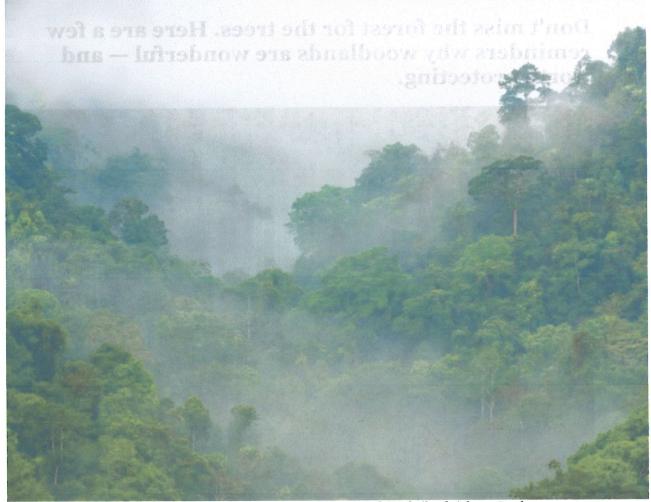
Forests cover nearly a third of all land on Earth, providing vital organic infrastructure for some of the planet's densest, most diverse collections of life. They support countless species, including our own, yet we often seem oblivious of that. Humans now clear millions of acres from natural forests every year, especially in the tropics, letting deforestation threaten some of Earth's most valuable ecosystems.

We tend to take forests for granted, underestimating how indispensable they still are for everyone on the planet. That would quickly change if they all disappeared, but since humanity might not survive that scenario, the lesson wouldn't be very useful by then. As the Once-ler finally realizes in Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax," a crisis like deforestation depends on indifference. "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot," Seuss wrote, "nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Indifference, in turn, often depends on ignorance. So to help things get better for woodlands around the world, we'd all be wise to learn more about the benefits of forests — and to share that knowledge with others. That's the goal of events like Arbor Day and the International

Day of Forests, a U.N. holiday observed annually on March 21. But forests support us every day of the year, and as deforestation runs rampant around the world, they increasingly need us to return the favor.

In hopes of shedding more light on what forests do for us, and how little we can afford to lose them, here are 21 reasons why forests are so important:



Morning mist shrouds a tropical forest at Kaeng Krachan National Park in Thailand. (Photo: Stephane Bidouze/Shutterstock)

1. They help us breathe.

Forests pump out oxygen we need to live and absorb the carbon dioxide we exhale (or emit). A single mature, leafy tree is estimated to produce a day's supply of oxygen for anywhere from two to 10 people. Phytoplankton in the ocean are more prolific, providing half of Earth's oxygen, but forests are still a key source of quality air.

2. They're more than just trees.

Nearly half of Earth's known species live in forests, including 80% of biodiversity on land. That variety is especially rich in tropical rainforests, but forests teem with life around the planet: Insects and worms work nutrients into soil, bees and birds spread pollen and seeds, and keystone species like wolves and big cats keep hungry herbivores in check. Biodiversity is a big deal, both for ecosystems and human economies, yet it's increasingly threatened around the world by deforestation.

3. People live there, too.

Some 300 million people live in forests worldwide, including an estimated 60 million indigenous people whose survival depends almost entirely on native woodlands. Many millions more live along or near forest fringes, but even just a scattering of urban trees can raise property values and reduce crime, among other benefits.



The canopy towers above a coastal-plain forest in Italy's Nazionale del Circeo. (Photo: <u>Nicola [CC BY</u> 2.0]/Flickr)

4. They keep us cool.

By growing a canopy to hog sunlight, trees also create vital <u>oases of shade</u> on the ground. Urban trees help buildings stay cool, reducing the need for electric fans or air conditioners, while large forests can tackle daunting tasks like curbing a city's "heat island" effect or regulating regional temperatures.

5. They keep Earth cool.

Trees also have another way to beat the heat: absorb CO2 that fuels global warming. Plants always need some CO2 for photosynthesis, but Earth's air is now so thick with extra emissions that <u>forests fight global warming</u> just by breathing. CO2 is stored in wood, leaves and soil, often for centuries.

6. They make it rain.

Large forests can influence regional weather patterns and even create their own microclimates. The Amazon rainforest, for example, generates atmospheric conditions that not only promote regular rainfall there and in nearby farmland, but potentially as far away

as the Great Plains of North America.

7. They fight flooding.

Tree roots are key allies in heavy rain, especially for low-lying areas like river plains. They help the ground absorb more of a flash flood, reducing soil loss and property damage by slowing the flow.



Erawan Falls flows through a rainforest in the Tenasserim Hills of western Thailand. (Photo: Shutterstock)

8. They pay it forward.

On top of flood control, soaking up surface runoff also protects ecosystems downstream. Modern stormwater increasingly carries toxic chemicals, from gasoline and lawn fertilizer to pesticides and pig manure, that accumulate through watersheds and eventually create low-oxygen "dead zones."

9. They refill aquifers.

Forests are like giant sponges, catching runoff rather than letting it roll across the surface, but they can't absorb all of it. Water that gets past their roots trickles down into aquifers, replenishing groundwater supplies that are important for drinking, sanitation and irrigation around the world.

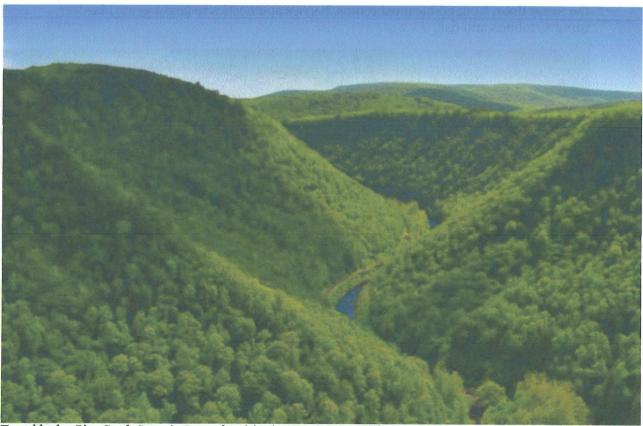
10. They block wind.

Farming near a forest has lots of benefits, like bats and songbirds that eat insects or owls and

foxes that eat rats. But groups of trees can also serve as a windbreak, providing a buffer for wind-sensitive crops. And beyond protecting those plants, less wind also makes it easier for bees to pollinate them.

11. They keep dirt in its place.

A forest's root network stabilizes huge amounts of soil, bracing the entire ecosystem's foundation against erosion by wind or water. Not only does deforestation disrupt all that, but the ensuing soil erosion can trigger new, life-threatening problems like landslides and dust storms.



Trees blanket Pine Creek Gorge in Pennsylvania's Tioga State Forest. (Photo: Nicholas A. Tonelli [CC BY 2.0]/Flickr)

12. They clean up dirty soil.

In addition to holding soil in place, forests may also use phytoremediation to clean out certain pollutants. Trees can either sequester the toxins away or degrade them to be less dangerous. This is a helpful skill, letting trees absorb sewage overflows, roadside spills or contaminated runoff.

13. They clean up dirty air.

We herald houseplants for purifying the air, but don't forget forests. They can clean up air pollution on a much larger scale, and not just CO2. Trees absorb a wide range of airborne pollutants, including carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. In the U.S. alone, urban trees are estimated to save 850 lives per year and \$6.8 billion in total health care costs just by removing pollutants from the air.

14. They muffle noise pollution.

Sound fades in forests, making trees a popular natural noise barrier. The muffling effect is largely due to rustling leaves — plus other woodland white noise, like bird songs — and just a few well-placed trees can cut background sound by 5 to 10 decibels, or about 50% as heard by human ears.

15. They feed us.

Not only do trees produce fruits, nuts, seeds and sap, but they also enable a cornucopia near the forest floor, from edible mushrooms, berries and beetles to larger game like deer, turkeys, rabbits and fish.



North America's eastern forests teem with red-eyed vireos in summer. (Photo: Matt MacGillivray [CC BY 2.0]/Flickr)

16. They heal us.

Forests give us many natural medications, and increasingly inspire synthetic spin-offs. The asthma drug theophylline comes from cacao trees, for one, while a compound in eastern red cedar needles fights drug-resistant bacteria. About 70% of known plants with cancer-fighting properties occur only in rainforests, yet fewer than 1% of tropical rainforest plants have been tested for medicinal effects. Even just walking in the woods can offer health benefits, too, including stress relief, reduced blood pressure and a stronger immune system. The latter may be partly due to trees releasing airborne compounds called phytoncides, which prompt our bodies to boost the natural killer (NK) cells that attack infections and guard against tumors.

17. They help us make things.

Where would humans be without timber and resin? We've long used these renewable resources to make everything from paper and furniture to homes and clothing, but we also

have a history of getting carried away, leading to overuse and deforestation. Thanks to the growth of tree farming and sustainable forestry, though, it's becoming easier to find responsibly sourced tree products.

18. They create jobs.

More than 1.6 billion people rely on forests to some extent for their livelihoods, according to the U.N., and 10 million are directly employed in forest management or conservation. Forests contribute about 1% of the global gross domestic product through timber production and non-timber products, the latter of which alone support up to 80% of the population in many developing countries.

19. They create majesty.

Natural beauty may be the most obvious and yet least tangible benefit a forest offers. The abstract blend of shade, greenery, activity and tranquility can yield concrete advantages for people, however, like convincing us to appreciate and preserve old-growth forests for future generations.



Romania's Danube Delta is reportedly the best-preserved river delta in Europe. (Photo: Daniel Mihailescu/AFP /Getty Images)

20. They help us explore and relax.

Our innate attraction to forests, part of a phenomenon known as biophilia, is still in the

relatively early stages of scientific explanation. We know biophilia draws us to woods and other natural scenery, though, encouraging us to rejuvenate ourselves by exploring, wandering or just unwinding in the wilderness. They give us a sense of mystery and wonder, evoking the kinds of wild frontiers that molded our distant ancestors. And thanks to our growing awareness that spending time in forests is good for our health, many people now seek out those benefits with the Japanese practice of *shinrin-yoku*, commonly translated to English as "forest bathing."

21. They're pillars of their communities.

Like the famous rug in "The Big Lebowski," forests really tie everything together — and we often don't appreciate them until they're gone. Beyond all their specific ecological perks (which can't even fit in a list this long), they've reigned for eons as Earth's most successful setting for life on land. Our species probably couldn't live without them, but it's up to us to make sure we never have to try. The more we enjoy and understand forests, the less likely we are to miss them for the trees.

Editor's note: This article has been updated since it was originally published in March 2014.

21 reasons why forests are important

In case you're missing the forest for the trees, here are a few reminders why woodlands are wonderful.

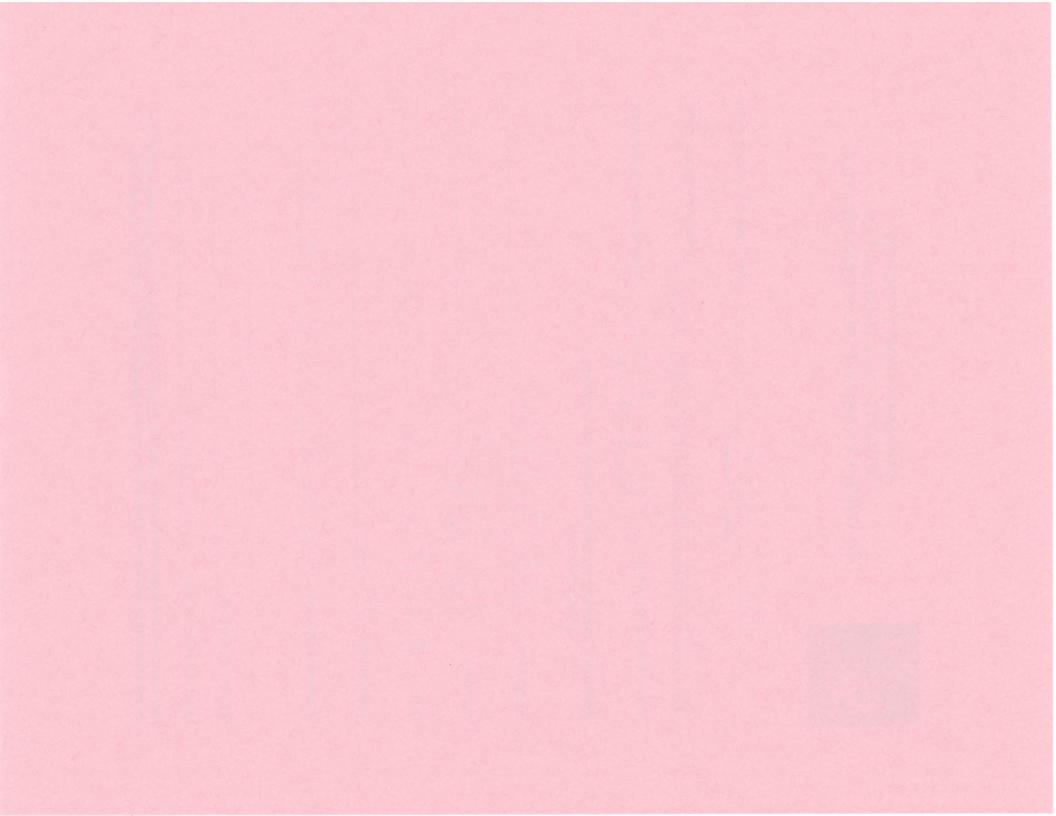
8 of 8 11/18/2019, 2:17 PM



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

I, HRNY ANLW (name of individual)	, have been duly authorized by
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task	to deliver testimony to the
County Council regarding CB 65 P CR 142 (bill or resolution number)	
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)	
Printed Name: HRNY HADLY	
Signature:	
Date: 0 /1 / 18 19	
Organization: HCCA	
Organization Address: P. J. Box 89, Eurzott	CAM, MD 2104
Number of Members:	
Name of Chair/President: Stutohn	

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





Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 18 November 2019

Subject: HCCA Testimony – CR142 -- Increasing Forest Conservation fees-in-lieu.

Members of the County Council,

I am testifying on behalf of the Howard County Citizens Association to urge you to rethink the practice of fees-in-lieu as a way to allow developers from not fulfilling their obligations. As we approach another budget season and an almost certain record deficit, we can look to this practice as a main contributor.

Howard County fees-in-lieu do not reflect the actual cost to the taxpayer and the forest conversation fees are a prime example. Here we are, facing cataclysmic disasters from climate change, declaring that "we're still in" the Paris Agreement proclaiming our commitment to stand for decisive action, while setting fees of cutting down trees that do not reflect their true worth.

First, HCCA does not support the use of fees-in-lieu as a way for developers to get out of fulfilling their obligation. A fee-in-lieu is ideal for a counter-party that is a steward of its community, who would not abuse the process for the sake of profits. The current structure is abused and enables developer profit subsidy. A fee-in-lieu makes sense when zero practical solutions exist to overcome the obstacles. It is a last resort. But in Howard County it's really more of a first resort.

Second, if a fee-in-lieu should exist, we think it should be based on sound fiscal and economic evaluations. Most fees in Howard County are pulled out of thin-air and there is little proof the forest conservation fees are any different.

While we appreciate the explanation provided in the administration's testimony that provided some basis for the fees, we think the fee should also include the cost of carbon abatement. Governments, businesses and NGOs are adding these climate-related costs to their budgeting and a county government that prides itself as forward-thinking leader on climate issues should also.

An acre of mature trees can sequester as much as 5,800 pounds of carbon dioxide per year. Just going by CB62 requirements of 100 trees per year leads to 58 pounds per tree per year. Assuming a carbon cost of \$50 per ton, a social discount rate of 1 percent, each tree would add up to 30 cents to the fees within the planned service area boundary making it \$1.55 per square foot and closer to \$1.90 per square foot outside the PSA. By the way, number of trees per acre specified in CB62 assumed 20 feet, while many recommendations are 10 feet or less, which

would lead to \$1.20 per square feet just due to carbon abatement alone. This fee doesn't take into account the fact that not all trees are created equal. Mature trees have more benefits and the time needed for small trees to mature should be reflected in the fee-in-lieu.

The fee for abandonment would need to be at least double the cost – closer to \$4 or \$5.00 if the intent is to dissuade the possibility of someone going thorough the process with the intent to abandon because it is the cheaper option.

Ideally, fees-in-lieu would be eliminated as a way to comply with regulations as they have been abused by developers for years. Alternatively, we ask that the calculations incorporate a defensible account for the impact of climate change and the benefits of trees in protecting communities from flooding.

Hiruy Hadgu HCCA Board of Director November 18th,. 2019

Council Members.

I am Steve Breeden. I have lived in the county my whole life and worked here for almost 40 years, doing what used to be a respected job, of providing homes for future residents.

I believe the administration bills need some work. I will give you a few details, but want you to see what I think is the big picture in the county right now.

A couple weeks ago you increased the school excise tax by 568%, from \$1.32 psf to \$7.50 psf, plus cpi. A large home in the west could easily cost \$100,000 in permit fees, before a shovel gets in the ground. The idea was to raise \$205mm over the next 10 years to pay for someone's estimate of the amount that the school board would need to cover the shortfall in its capital needs. The problem is that if homes are not allowed to be built, the county will not see this money. You may raise some for the projects already in the pipeline, but new projects are already stopped due to the number of schools that already are, and will continue to be closed since July 1st, when the moratorium took effect. Even then, I am not sure if the market can bear this additional cost, which makes all new non-senior market rate

homes much less affordable for everyone. Only 27 percent of families have children in the schools, but if we think school construction is the priority, then all residents should pay more, not just the people not yet here.

Bills such as CB 61 and CB 62 only exacerbate this problem, by further stifling a builder's ability to make a project work under the laws currently in place. I understand that the laws need to follow the state guide lines, but do not understand why they need to be much more severe in Howard County than the state and other counties?

Why does a forest need to be 50 feet wide to be a forest, even if it were adjacent to another forest? Why are we protecting steep slopes when they may be erodible and of no value, except they happen to be steep? Why are we protecting large trees that are in many cases, already dead? By protecting them, other issues are created such as poor layouts and future drainage problems, for the county to hear about forever. When homeowners ask why we do some of the things we do, which we know don't make sense, the only response we can give is, the county made us do this to comply with the laws, whether they make sense or not.

Why do we need to go above and beyond the state laws for reforestation? Trees are wonderful, and even developers love them, but they need to be in the right place. What's nice about

trees, is that we plant them (really relocate and increase their numbers) and they grow in places that are better for them and us. Just fly over what used to be all farmland, what is now Columbia, and try to find a house?

Why are we setting back from the property lines for forests? Why do we need to keep 75% of the trees on site? Why can't we pay a fee in lieu for more than 1 acre when we can't find places on site to plant them? At the proposed \$54,450 per acre, the county should be able to put together large forest tracts, which make sense.

Currently we have a 2 year growing season requirement to prove that the trees are growing. We plant at 3 to 1 and need to keep an 85% survival rate. After the first inspection, we go back and replant back to 100%, the trees that did not make it through the first year. Rather than add a third year to the inspection period, why don't we get released from the expensive bonds, and post a maintenance bond, like we do for roads, until we get through the 3rd growing season?

As for Bill 61, how can you say that Economics can't be considered a factor of UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP? There are always tradeoffs, and the developers need to prove to the county what makes sense, but to ignore economics is unreasonable. We don't mind making our case for why we are doing things, like we have had to do for many years. What you

may not realize is that we do this before ever asking for waivers from DPZ, which is why they get approved. THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN NEGOTIATED!

We already have a review panel, call the Subdivision Review Group that weighs in on what, if any, alternative compliance is granted. Why does the county need to waste more time on what will turn out to be the Director of Planning and Zoning, Director of Public Works, and the Administrator of the Office of Sustainability trying to make these decisions? And who gets to decide? I guess these will eventually wind their way up to top county leadership for every request. Do we really want this? And why do we exempt all but private development projects? The environment doesn't know the difference.

I know it is fun to bash development these days, but none of us live in tents, and we need to be reasonable about the kinds of things we are legislating. If the wrong people are interpreting the rules, the county can and will shut down, and then how will we pay for the schools?

Thanks for listening.

Steve



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

I, Elly COWON (name of individual)	, have been duly authorized by
Smarter Growth Alliance of Hound Com (name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task for	to deliver testimony to the
County Council regarding CBle 2-2019 and CR142-2019 (bill or resolution number)	to express the organization's
support for opposition to request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)	
Printed Name: Elly Cowan	
Signature: Olly Colour	
Date: 1//18/2019	
Organization: Smarter Growth Alliance	& Howard Counte
Organization Address: 3600 Clipper Hill Rd	Ste. 248
Baltimore, RD 21211	
Number of Members: 20 Member ovcani	zations
Name of Chair/President: Limberty Golden	Grandt

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

Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Howard County Council George Howard Building 3430 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CB62-2019, Forest Conservation & CR142-2019, Forest Conservation Fee-in-Lieu

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to protect the county's outstanding environmental assets to preserve and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by residents.

We strongly support the proposed changes to local forest conservation law that will not only bring the County into compliance with the Maryland Forest Conservation Act, but also help to better retain priority forests and reforest where needed. Specifying the replanting of native trees will help grow forests that nurture wildlife and provide consistent habitat with other adjoining forested areas. The Site Design Requirements, which stipulate that residential developments with more than one acre of obligation shall meet 75% of it on site, are important for storm water management and for residents to benefit from the natural environment. And using the State standard of "unwarranted hardship" for review and consideration of variances will protect champion trees.

We thank you for taking action to protect and maintain Howard County's forested land. To that end, we ask that you consider the following strengthening amendments to CB62-2019.

1. Expanding the definitions of Historic Site and Historic Structure to include properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Nation's list of historic places worthy of preservation. (Section 16.1201, Definitions)

- 2. Adding isolated Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) to the list of Forest Retention Priorities. TEAs represent the most ecologically valuable places in the state as determined by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Howard County's TEAs include some of the few remaining natural areas. (Section 16.1205, Forest Retention Priorities)
- **3. Increasing reforestation thresholds by 10% for each land use category** to more closely approach the goal of no-net-loss. (Section 16.1206, Reforestation)
- 4. Increasing the reforestation ratio for sites within the same watershed to 1:1 (from ½:1) and to 1.5:1 (from 1:1) for sites outside the same watershed, recognizing that replanted trees do not provide the same ecological benefits as mature trees. (Section 16.1206, Reforestation)
- 5. Limiting approval/denial authority for variances to the Director of Planning and Zoning, the Administrator of Office of Community Sustainability, and the Director of Recreation and Parks in agreement to provide consistent and multi-disciplinary review for all variance applications. This amendment would require removing the Planning Board as an approving/denying entity. (Section 16.1216, Variances)

We also support CR142-2019, which increases forest conservation fee-in-lieu. To ensure that fee-in-lieu is only used when other options are not possible, we ask that you consider further increasing the fees from \$1.25 and \$1.50 per square foot to the \$2.00 - \$3.00 per-square-foot range to better match replanting costs and lost ecosystem services of mature trees.

Finally, we ask that you **further increase fines for violations** to discourage the practice of willfully violating forest conservation laws to reduce project costs.

We thank you for your kind consideration of these comments and for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Audubon Maryland-DC
David Curson
Director of Bird Conservation

Maryland Conservation Council Paulette Hammond President Clean Water Action Emily Ranson Maryland Program Coordinator

Coalition for Smarter Growth Stewart Schwartz Executive Director

Community Ecology Institute Chiara D'Amore, Ph.D. President

Earth Forum of Howard County Sue L. Harris Director

HARP Lisa Soto Chair

Howard County Citizens Association Stu Kohn President

Howard County Conservancy Meg Boyd Executive Director

Howard County Sierra Club Carolyn Parsa Chair Maryland League of Conservation Voters Kim Coble Executive Director

Maryland Ornithological Society Kurt R. Schwarz Conservation Chair

Patapsco Heritage Greenway Mark Southerland, Ph.D. Vice President for Environment

Preservation Maryland Kimberly Golden Brandt Director of Smart Growth Maryland

Safe Skies Maryland Mark Southerland, Ph.D. Legislative Director

Savage Community Association Susan Garber Board Chair

The People's Voice, LLC Lisa M. Markovitz President

Transition Howard County Margo Duesterhaus President

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive



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

_{I,} Emily Ranson	_, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)	_, xw, v ocon dary addionized by
Clean Water Action	to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task for	orce)
County Council regarding CR142-2019 (bill or resolution number)	_ to express the organization's
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)	
Printed Name: Emily Ranson	
Signature: M/h	
Date:11/18/19	
Organization: Clean Water Action	
Organization Address: 1120 N Charles Street, Suite 415 Baltin	nore, MD 21201
Number of Members: 7000	
Name of Chair/President: Bob Wendelgass	

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



_{I,} Emily Ranson	_, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)	_, imve soon dary admonized by
Clean Water Action	to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task f	orce)
County Council regarding CB62-2019 (bill or resolution number)	to express the organization's
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)	
Printed Name: Emily Ranson	,
Signature: M	
Date:	
Organization: Clean Water Action	
Organization Address:1120 N Charles Street, Suite 415 Baltin	nore, MD 21201
Number of Members: 7000	
Name of Chair/President: Bob Wendelgass	



November 18, 2019

CB62-2019: Forest Conservation Act

Position: Favorable

Dear Council Chair Mercer-Rigby and Members of the Council,

Clean Water Action is a water-oriented advocacy group with 7,000 members in Howard County, and 45,000 in the state of Maryland. Clean Water Action supports policies that protect and improve water quality. Clean Water Action supports CB62-2019 to bring Howard County into compliance with state minimum forest conservation standards and improve certain protections for remaining forests.

We have worked on forest conservation policy on the state level for many years, and this is an issue that our members are particularly concerned about. When we speak with Marylanders about protecting forests, so many refer to a specific forest that they are mourning and their appreciation and deep connection to the forests around them. From the elderly to children, everyday people want to see forests maintained and preserved.

In talking about the forest they lost, many refer to increased stormwater problems in their neighborhoods. This is a consistent refrain from people throughout Maryland, not merely sensitized Howard County residents who are frustrated and want to stop development. If modern stormwater facilities were better than natural conditions, the stormwater sector of the Chesapeake Bay's TMDL would not continue to grow.

For our residents who are frustrated with seeing forests throughout the county come down, for our streams that already suffer from impairments due to stormwater runoff, for our animals who continue to lose habitat, it is time to bring Howard County up to state minimums and improve forest conservation standards.

On Site Requirements: Forest conservation and a preference for on-site retention should be a priority for developments moving forward. While trees may get in the way of mass grading or squeezing as many homes onto the land as possible, mature trees improve recreational opportunities for new Howard County residents, high quality viewsheds, shade in our

neighborhoods, and stormwater benefits, among others. Keeping trees on site also help keep outside noise down.¹

Especially as the county infills in the east and older neighborhoods experience increasing stormwater issues, it is important to maintain forests and trees with their ability to slow, soak up, and filter stormwater runoff. As neighborhoods are built closer and closer to highways, retaining trees on-site helps insulate new houses from highway noise and keeps highway noise down in existing neighborhoods. Trees serve as an important sound buffer.

Planting Sensitive Features: Trees are critical to protecting most sensitive features, including streams, wetlands, and steep slopes. By focusing tree plantings here, we can protect those features while satisfying forest conservation goals.

Setbacks: Unfortunately, when structures are allowed to be built close to forest conservation easements, homeowners believe that their property includes the forest. This contributes to the persistent problem of homeowners removing trees, building into forest conservation easements, or using the easements to store materials.

Replanting Ratios: This bill proposes to adjust replanting ratios based on which watershed the replanting will be completed. Howard County has a problem with forests migrating from the east to the west. Unfortunately, when trees are replanted in a different watershed, then the original watershed loses the benefits of the removed forest and does not get the benefit back of replanted forest (note: replanted saplings do not make up for the lost ecosystem services of a mature forest). Incentivizing acres to be reforested within the same watershed is a clever method to solve the problem of forest migration and preserve the eastern county's remaining forests and their ecosystem benefits.

We support CB62-2019 and urge its passage.

Signed,

Emily Ranson
Maryland Program Coordinator
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org
443-562-2832

¹ USDA. Sustaining America's Urban Trees and Forests. June 2010: https://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/fote/reports/nrs-62 sustaining americas urban.pdf



November 18, 2019

CR142-2019: Increasing Forest Conservation Fees-in-Lieu

Position: Favorable

Dear Council Chair Mercer-Rigby and Members of the Council,

Clean Water Action is a water-oriented advocacy group with 7,000 members in Howard County, and 45,000 in the state of Maryland. Clean Water Action supports policies that protect and improve water quality in Maryland and throughout the country.

Fees-in-lieu can be an important tool for providing flexibility in adhering to environmental regulations, allowing money to be spent differently. However, when the fees are too low they are effectively a taxpayer subsidy to the developers.

For forest conservation, when the fees are too low they do not capture the full cost of replanting trees. Historically, this could play out in two ways: the trees were never replaced or Howard County taxpayers had to make up the difference. With recent state law changes, counties are now responsible for replanting the acres for which they take money. If the fee is lower than the cost to acquire land, replant the trees, and maintain the trees, then taxpayers will be on the hook for covering the difference.

Replanted trees take years to reach the same ecosystem benefits that mature forests provide. In our area, it often takes 50 years for replanted trees to produce substantial floral resources and soils may not adopt their sponge-like qualities for thirty years.¹ It is best to preserve existing forest, and some counties do not accept fees-in-lieu.

If fees-in-lieu are to be collected, they must be high enough to adequately capture the costs and maintenance risks the county is accepting when they take that money.

We support increasing the Forest Conservation fees-in-lieu to better capture the cost of acquiring land, replanting trees, and maintaining trees.

¹ Cunningham, S.C., R. Mac Nally, P.J. Baker, T.R. Cavagnaro, J. Beringer, J.R. Thomson, R.M. Thompson.

[&]quot;Balancing the Environmental Benefits of Reforestation in Agricultural Regions." 6 June 2014. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 17 (2015) 301-317: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2015.06.001

Signed,

Emily Ranson Maryland Program

Maryland Program Coordinator

Clean Water Action

eranson@cleanwater.org

443-562-2832



I, Lisa Markovitz, have been duly authorized by (name of individual)
(name of individual)
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding (bill or resolution number) to deliver testimony to the to deliver testimony to the total commission, or task force)
support for / opposition to / fequest to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)
Printed Name: Lisa Markonita
Signature:
Date:
Organization: The Reples Voice LCC
Organization Address: The People's Voice, LLC
_ 3600 Sant Johns Lane Ste D Elliatt Lity MD 2184
Number of Members: 3486
Name of Chair/President: List Markonth Programment
This form can be submitted electronically via email to <u>councilmait@howardcounty:nd.gov</u> no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



I, LISA MARKOUITZ (name of individual)	_, have been duly authorized by
^	
- the Pearles Voice LCC	to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task)	force)
County Council regarding CR142 -2019	to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)	
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle onk)	
Printed Name: Lisa Markonte	
Signature:	
Date:	
Organization: The Reples Voice LCC	
Organization Address: The People's Voice, LLC	
3600 Sant Johns Lone Ste D Elli	att City MD 2004
Number of Members: 3486	
Name of Chair/President: Lisa Markonth Pron Dent	

The People's Voice, LLC Ethics Ballot ™

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D, Ellicott City, MD 21042

County Council Public Hearing November 18, 2019

Testimony – CB 62 – Support with requested amendment

Lisa Markovitz, President, The Peoples Voice

We are pleased to see Howard County come into compliance with the State Forest Conservation laws, and add further strengthening of it. We are especially appreciative that the Bill increases reforestation requirements, specifies replanting of native trees, and gives incentive to reforest in the same watershed.

We ask you to consider expanding the definition of Historic Site and Historic Stucture to include properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which will help to better identify and protect these areas in other county decisions as well, where the Planning Board met with confusion from DPZ regarding these definitions.

Please consider increasing the reforestation ratios even further, for each land use category to more closely approach the goal of no-net loss. One cannot claim that a large, old lost tree is replaced by one new one. The increase in this ratio is commendable but needs to be higher. We realize it cannot be the reality of many studies saying it takes 1000 new little trees to make up for the benefits lost by one large one, but we can maybe go for twice here, especially when we often see the new trees cut down later sometimes, all over again before any even reach anywhere near what they replaced.

There are benefits to increasing forest definition from 35' to 50' for reforestation goals, but it would be nice if the deforestation issues could be kept to defining at 35'. I wish we could grandfather trees in legal changes, the way we do elsewhere. ©

Please make the language more clear regarding the fact that DPZ, Dept of Rec and Parks, and Office of Sustainability will grant the variances together with approval needed by all three, and with a safety net measure of the fact that if all three cannot come to an agreement, the variance is denied.

Please also remove the Planning Board from any and all decisions in these areas, or all areas if you are ever so inclined, but let's start here please. The informed and experienced knowledge of the three department heads having to agree, is far more comforting, with their own ability to use County resources and attorneys to answer their questions over time and not on the fly.

Take a look at some exemptions in 16.1209 of less than ten units and consider lowering that to five. Thank you!

The People's Voice, LLC Ethics Ballot ™

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D, Ellicott City, MD 21042

County Council Public Hearing November 18, 2019

Testimony – CR142 – Support with requested amendment

Lisa Markovitz, President, The Peoples Voice

We are very grateful to see increased fees in this area, and ask for a higher rate to be considered, \$2.00 - \$3.00 so as to create a bigger incentive not to forego forest conservation, and better match replanting costs and the lost ecosystem services of mature trees.

New tree saplings cannot compare to larger mature trees and the benefits they provide, nor the cost of replacement.

We also ask that very large fines be implemented for any disobeying of Forest Conservation regulations, whenever it is discovered, even after construction, so as to not allow the following of these important rules be a decision that is ever just a cost comparison.

Lastly, it sounds good that the fee-in-lieu provision can only be used for up to an acre of reforestation, but that is most limiting to large projects, and even though the reality might be that you are seeing more of those with effect in this area, we still have lots of small projects that add up. Therefore, please add a limitation to the acre max, to ALSO be no more than a small percentage of the property like 5%. We do realize that there is already the percentage limitations regarding compliance, but there should also be a limitation specifically for smaller projects as well, regarding just the fee-in-lieu allowance.



I, Carolyn Parsa	, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)	
Sierra Club Howard County	to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task	k force)
County Council regarding CB-62 & CB-64	to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)	
support for opposition to request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)	
Printed Name: Carolyn Parsa	
Signature:	
Date: November 18, 2019	
Organization: Sierra Club Howard County	
Organization Address: 7338 Baltimore Ave, Col	lege Pk
7338 Baltimore Ave, College Pk	
Number of Members: 1450	
Name of Chair/President: Carolyn Parsa	



I, Angelica Bailey	, 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	to deliver testimony to the
County Council regarding CB62-2019	to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)	-
support for / or position to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)	
Printed Name: Angelica Bailey	
Signature:	
Date: November 19, 2019	
Organization: Maryland Building Industry Association	
Organization Address:11825 West Market Place	
Fulton, MD 20759	
Number of Members:1,000+	
Name of Chair/President: Lori Graf, CEO	



$_{ m I,}$ Tom Ballentine	, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)	
NAIOP Maryland	to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or tas	
County Council regarding CB 62-19	to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)	
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)	
Printed Name:Tom Ballentine	
Signature:	
Date: 11-18-19	
Organization: NAIOP Maryland	
Organization Address: Baltimore, MD 21210	
Baltimore, MD 21210	
Number of Members: 700	
Name of Chair/President: Vince Bagley	



I, Kurt R. Schwarz, have been duly authorized by (name of individual)
Howard County Bird (Inb/ Maryland ornithological 500) etg to deliver testimony to the (name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding to express the organization's to express the organization's
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)
Printed Name: Kurt R. Schwarz
Signature:
Date: November 15, 2019
Organization: Howard County Bird Club/ Maryland Ornithological Society
Organization Address: 9045 Punloggin Ct. Ellicott City MD
21042
Number of Members: 200/800
Name of Chair/President: Mary Lov Clark / Robin Todd
This form can be submitted electronically via email to <u>councilmaik@howardcountymd.gov</u> no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



1, Robin Clark Eilenberg, have been duly authorized by
Chesapeake Bay Foundation to deliver testimony to the (name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding Bill No. 62-2019 to express the organization's (bill or resolution number)
support for opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)
Printed Name: Robin Clark Eilenberg
Signature: RELEADENG
Date: 11/15/2019
Organization: Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Organization Address: 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis,
MD 21403
Number of Members: 300,000 members and e-subscinbers
Name of Chair/President: Will Baker



I, Benjamin Alexando, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)
Mary land league of Consenation Voto deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)
County Council regarding 62+142 to express the organization's
County Council regarding to express the organization's to express the organization's
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation. (Please circle one.)
Printed Name: Benjamin Alexandro
Signature: BM Alfand 36
Date:
Organization: Marylund) eagly of Conservation Votors
Organization Address: 30 West 5+ Suite (, Anapolis
MD
Number of Members: 40,000 13h, 1000+ 19 Honard (ounty
Name of Chair/President: KIM (OD)

