

**Sayers, Margery**

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**From:** Mary Arrington <maryelda@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** I support CB-56-2021 and CB-57-2021

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

Subject: I support CB-56-2021

County Council Member:

I support CB-56-2021 to retain trees 24 inches wide and above when developers develop land. I am against clear cutting land as it takes away a natural, free way to reduce carbon, pollution, and global warming. Please support CB-56-2021 to help our county maintain clean air and prevent global warming.

Mary E. Arrington

Subject: I Support CB-57-2021

County Council Member:

I support CB-57-2021 because this bill addresses 'accountability of developers' who have not followed good practice of saving trees for many, many years. Holding them financially accountable will, I believe, add the teeth necessary to guarantee tree retention. Please vote to support CB-57-2021.

Mary E. Arrington

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** no-reply@howardcountymd.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:54 PM  
**To:** maryelda@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Council - I Support CB-57-2021

**First Name:** Mary  
**Last Name:** Arrington  
**Email:** [maryelda@verizon.net](mailto:maryelda@verizon.net)  
**Street Address:** 2520 Pfefferkorn Rd.  
**City:** West Friendship  
**Subject:** I Support CB-57-2021

**Message:** Subject: I Support CB-57-2021 County Council Member: I support CB-57-2021 because this bill addresses 'accountability of developers' who have not followed good practice of saving trees for many, many years. Holding them financially accountable will, I believe, add the teeth necessary to guarantee tree retainment. Please vote to support CB-57-2021. Mary E. Arrington



CB57-2021: Implementing Forest Conservation Ordinance Enforcement Measures and Penalties

My name is Dan Hajdo and I'm speaking on behalf of the Economic Equity Action Team of Howard County Indivisible. I am here to express our strong support for CB-57.

Again, testimony by others has given strong arguments for CB57. So here I want to highlight two points made by the director of the DPZ in the fiscal impact statements of CB-56 and CB-57 that support CB-57.

In the Fiscal Impact statement for CB-56, the DPZ director asserts that changing tree retention diameters means “development may become more difficult, possibly resulting in more requests for variances to remove specimen trees” This, in turn, means more staff hours.

In other words, the DPZ director suggests that developers regard land use laws like the Forest Conservation Act, merely as obstacles that are more or less easy to overcome; hence, it's likely that they will continue to seek favorable treatment (rather than, say, refraining from cutting down our forests).

This certainly seems like it might be the case, but I defer to the director's judgment in assuming it would be.

Given this statement on the tendency of “developers” to attempt to bypass legal requirements, the more rigorous enforcement provided by CB-57 is certainly needed.

Next,

In the Fiscal Impact Statement for CB-57, the director of DPZ however, presents another important bit of information in favor of passing CB-57. In an attachment to the statement, we have a chart from the Department of Parks and Recreation. It tells us that in 2019, 80 out of 134 developer inspections found violations of the Conservation Act. So, more than half. In 2020, 84 out of 131 developer inspections found violations. Yet, in both years, there were zero fines.

This raises two important points.

First, the provision in the law as written where fines “may” be levied, is not working well. Changing the “may” to “shall” should help, particularly since CB-56 strengthens protections. If it does not appear to deter violations by developers, then a simple solution would be to increase fines for non-residential violations.

Second, while the DPZ director has an opinion on the statistics for residential violations, the director has no opinion on the statistics for developer violations. That seems a missed opportunity since, apart from what I've just mentioned about fines helping decrease violations, it seems to me that had there been fines for all these developer violations, it would certainly help pay for any added staff hours for the DPZ.

Alternatively, the extra staff hours the DPZ anticipates might be mitigated with a simple reorientation of the DPZ. Rather than viewing one of the main functions of the DPZ as making things easier for developers, it might instead shift focus away from variances to more important matters like serving the public interest.

## Sayers, Margery

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**From:** Sarah Scott <sarahkscott12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for CB 56 and 57

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

Please stop cutting down so many trees!

I am from the piney woods of East Texas, where tall trees create beautiful forests providing shade from the summer sun and homes for wildlife. When I moved to Howard County 5 years ago, I fell in love with the beautiful forests that reminded me of home. I admire the way Columbia is nestled among the trees demonstrating harmony with man and nature.

But lately I've seen more clearing of large swaths of land for development. I understand progress, but there is no harmony, only discord. Our world is demonstrating more and more signs of a climate in trouble, and our actions in our own backyard should be where we more fiercely work to protect the environment. I have a 2 year old daughter, and I worry about the world she will inherit. I want to feel that Howard County will work to protect the earth and be a safe haven for nature. I love the hiking trails along the Patuxent and paths through wooded neighborhoods.

I believe that the proposed bills will protect mature and historic trees, fight climate change by sequestering carbon, slow storm water runoff, reduce flooding, provide habitat to wildlife, assure tree equity in communities of color, positively impact mental health, keep developers from purposely and repeatedly breaking the regulations to make even bigger profits. I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of them.

I watched a large lot off of Vollmerhausen Road near my home get decimated for new constructions (and that's nothing compared to where apartments and condos are being built), and when I told my daughter that seeing so many trees cut down at once makes me sad, she replied "It makes me sad, too, mommy. I loooove trees!" Please take every action available to you to strengthen the forests and wildlife of Howard County. Our children's future is worth far more than a developers profits. Please.

Thank you,  
Sarah Scott