



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

I, Susan Garber, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

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

County Council regarding CB79-2021 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Susan Garber

Signature: _____

Date: October 18, 2021

Organization: the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA

Organization Address: P.O. Box 89 Ellicott City, MD

P.O. Box 89 Ellicott City, MD

Number of Members: 500

Name of Chair/President: Stu Kohn

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the Public Hearing.



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

I, Susan Garber, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

the Savage Community Association to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding CB79-2021 to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

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

Printed Name: Susan Garber

Signature: _____

Date: 10/18/2021

Organization: Savage Community Association

Organization Address: P.O. Box 222 Savage 20763

P.O. Box 222 Savage 20763

Number of Members: 550

Name of Chair/President: Tori Diersen

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

October 18, 2021

Re: OPPOSITION TO CB79 – Enhanced Penalties for Forest Conservation Violations

Dear Counsel Chair Walsh and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) writes in opposition to Council Bill 79, which would create enhanced penalties for violations of the county Forest Conservation Act. The Forest Conservation Act of Howard County was repealed and reenacted in December 2019 with an effective date of February 5, 2020. A revised Forest Conservation Manual was approved by Resolution in February 2021. Since these Acts and Manuals were only recently passed, it is an unreasonable burden on builders and developers to now consider additional changes to the Forest Conservation Act. Both the County and the industry has only begun to implement these new rules and there isn't a track record that indicates that changes are necessary at this time.

This legislation would require that the Department of Inspections automatically revoke processing of Forest Conservation Plans and suspend the processing of new plans for violators of the Forest Conservation Act for all properties on which a violation occurred. This bill represents a significant change to the forest conservation act that is still new and not yet fully implemented as stated above. Additionally, the act has no timeline for when a revised forest conservation plan must be issued by the department, allowing projects to be potentially suspended in perpetuity.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Council vote against Council Bill 57-2021. Thank you for your attention to this vital issue and your continued support of the local home building industry. If you have any questions about these comments and would like to discuss MBIA's position further, please do not hesitate to contact me at iambruso@marylandbuilders.org or (202) 815-4445.

Best regards,

Isaac Ambruso, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

Cc: Counsel Chair Elizabeth Walsh
Vice-Chair Opel Jones
Councilmember Deb Jung
County Executive Calvin Ball
Councilman David Yungmann