

CB54-2022

Sayers, Margery

From: Victoria Goeller <gygoeller@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:27 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB54-2022

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

Howard County Council Members,
I support CB54-2022 and hope you will vote in favor of the bill.
Preservation of the trees and forests in the Ellicott City watershed is crucial to the survival of Old Ellicott City.

Victoria Goeller
8378 Court Ave
Old Ellicott City 21043

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Nathan Eschbach <enathan1@umbc.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 5:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB54-2022

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

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of old Ellicott city, and member of the large community present here who values and enjoys the local watershed and forests for recreation, water retention, and natural beauty I am emailing to show my support for CB54.

Best,
Nathan Eschbach

Sayers, Margery

From: P S <agm.9601@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: In support of CB54-2022

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

To Councilwoman Liz Walsh, and Members of the County Council:

I would like to express my support of CB54-2022 in order to preserve the trees in our County. It is vital that we protect this natural way of capturing carbon, producing oxygen, and providing flood mitigation.

Further, I understand that this will stop developers from being able to cheaply buy their way out of preserving forest conservation areas simply by writing a check. It is unconscionable that residents are required to abide by the rules set by the Forest Conservancy (such as not disposing of fallen leaves within the tree line, even if the leaves are from the trees within the tree line) and yet a developer can dispose of the trees that they decide do not fit with their development plans. The Forest Conservancy ought to hold developers to strict standards, especially as we face solid evidence of how we are destroying our planet and how protecting trees is just one step we can take toward mitigating some of the damage that we have done.

I do not believe that I have ever written a letter in support of an action, so the fact that this is my first effort of its kind tells you how important I believe this to be. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Pamela Schuckman
5140 Crestwood Lane
Ellicott City MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Alexa Chestnut <lexchestnut@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:18 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: **CB54-2022**

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

I fully support **CB54-2022**.

Watersheds are set aside and designated for a reason, to protect a specific area. A healthy watershed reduces the impact of floods, minimizes the economic burden on public infrastructure, and reduces erosion and water treatment costs.

Builders should not be able to sidestep environmental planners and remove trees and vegetation from a watershed. Destruction in one area can not be mitigated by planing trees in another unrelated area.

The County should no longer grant waivers to cut down our oldest, biggest trees in old Ellicott City and allow tree exchanges outside the watershed. Please support **CB54-2022**.

Thank you

Sayers, Margery

From: Cindy Brown <cindy72577@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB54-2022 Legislation

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

Hello,

I am writing in my support for CB54-2022 Legislation. Allowing developers to pay money in lieu of conserving and/or preserving land is irresponsible on the part of the DPZ. This shouldn't even be an option. Protecting our watershed and ecosystem should be the top priority. The forest that developers were allowed to pay to tear down at Columbia and Cooks is right along a feeder stream into Main Street. This is unacceptable.

I was a resident on Main Street during the 2016 flood and it was singularly the most traumatic experience of my life. And then it flooded again. When I came back to Ellicott City after several years living in the D.C. Metro area for work, I chose to buy a house in District 1 so that I could have a say in regard to development in and around Old Town. We must do everything we can to prevent more damage to Old Ellicott City and all areas surrounding it.

Please support and pass legislation for CB54-2022. Protect our watershed, ecosystem, history, and people.

Thank you,
Cindy Brown
10118 Carillon Drive
Ellicott City, MD, 21042
(HoCo District 1)

Sayers, Margery

From: Marisa McCurdy <marisahiggins@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:31 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for **CB54-2022**

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

Howard County Council Members,

I'm writing today in support of CB54, which would prohibit the County from granting waivers to cut down our oldest, biggest trees and limit tree exchanges. As the bill states, substantial justice must be done and the public interest must be secured. You are putting your heads in the sand to the continuing problems of overdevelopment in our area if you do not support the passing of this bill into law. The citizens of Howard County are yelling as loud as we possibly can that there is too much development, not enough focus on preserving old growth (especially above OEC) and this bill would go a long way to rectifying many of our past wrongs.

Please vote to pass CB54.

Marisa McCurdy
6802 Norris Lane, Elkridge MD 21075

Sayers, Margery

From: Francesca Galbani <frankiegalbani@netscape.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:38 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB54

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

Good evening,

I am writing to you in support of CB54: I found it ridiculous that every year the county spends money - our tax money - on giving away trees to be planted and allows developer to cut down trees. Protect the existing trees that are actually bigger and better for the environment. Please preserve what we already have.

Thanks

Sayers, Margery

From: Rachelle Woods <88woods@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Pro CB54-2022

[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 Howard County Council,

I am writing to encourage all of you to vote for CB54-2022, legislation which will preserve forest and trees, removing waivers to cut down the oldest and largest trees in our country, in particular in the Ellicott City watershed. Developers should not be allowed to pay money in lieu of preserving irreplaceable natural resources which not only add to the character of our country, but also act as a natural means of flood mitigation and air purification. In the strongest way, I urge you all to vote in favor of this legislation.

As our planet struggles with one natural disaster after another, processes exacerbated by global climate change, you have the power to help our county do its part to mitigate these impacts and protect our part of the world. Please vote for CB54-2022.

Respectfully yours,
Rachelle Woods

9140 Sybert Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410)707-2127

Sayers, Margery

From: fbharleygirl@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Cb54

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

Please support CB54 for the watershed. Our city needs to preserve our existing trees.

Francine Kraft
5008 Worthington Way
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sayers, Margery

From: Walter & Debbie Rowe <walter.and.debbie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 6:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB54-2022

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

I support CB54-2022 sponsored by Liz Walsh amending the Howard County Code to prohibit the issuance of certain waivers or variances to Forest Conservation regulations for properties located in the Tiber Branch Watershed; requiring certain site design requirements in the Tiber Branch Watershed; altering the existing floodplain, wetland, stream, and steep slope waiver provisions for the Tiber Branch Watershed; requiring development in the Tiber Branch Watershed to meet its forest conservation obligations on-site; and generally relating to waivers or variances.

Walter Rowe
202-355-4123
6313 Mellow Twilight Ct
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie <slwhite135@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 6:27 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB54

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

Hello,

I am writing in support of legislation CB54.

Protecting Howard County's oldest trees should be a priority whenever council is charged with making decisions regarding construction, development, and land use.

Scientists have shown that forests have 'mother' trees that use a system of underground communication. These older trees help keep the balance of the forest, send nutrients to sick or dying plants, help young offspring grow, and help manage disease and other infestations. They are an essential part of a thriving ecosystem.

When there is land development, it seems nature is often treated like a nuisance. It is bombarded on multiple fronts through clear-cutting, in-lieu fees, lands held in trust, lack of native plants, and the introduction of invasive plants.

This leads to increased flooding, a disruption to wildlife patterns, and a lack of biodiversity. It can even lead to the decimation of beneficial pollinators like Maryland's state butterfly, the Baltimore Checkerspot--which is now labeled as "rare, threatened, and endangered."

Cutting everything down without regard to its importance to the whole is a travesty that needs to end.

Protecting the land's largest trees is a bare minimum, essential move toward a greener, more beautiful county and a more sustainable future.

Please support CB54. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Stephanie White

For further information referenced in this email, please read:

"'Mother Trees' Are Intelligent: They Learn and Remember" by Richard Schiffman, published May 4th, 2021

Sayers, Margery

From: Shaun Lehmann <shaunboylelehmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 6:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support CB54-2022

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

Please support CB54. Keeping trees in this watershed are the cheapest and practical way to create flood mitigation. Allowing variances or waivers of any type in this watershed will only necessitate 10x more being spent engineering a solution. This is a no brainer and should pass the council unanimously.

Shaun Lehmann
5129 Good Memory Ln
Ellicott City, MD 21043

September 27, 2022



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

RE: CB54 – to amend the Howard County Code to prohibit the issuance of certain waivers or variances to Forest Conservation regulations to properties located in the Tiber Branch Watershed

POSITION: Support

County Council Members:

The Howard County Sierra Club supports CB54 as this important legislation will increase conservation of trees in a fragile and vital watershed.

This legislation is a follow up to CB80-2016, an emergency bill that passed with these same provisions, that was sponsored by Councilman Jon Weinstein and our current County Executive Calvin Ball when he was on the county council. While this bill did pass, it did not get incorporated into the Forest Conservation Act. Passing CB54 would correct this oversight and make sure that these protections passed in 2016 go into the current Forest Conservation Plan.

The second main component of the bill is that forest mitigation will not be permitted to be done offsite. This is of critical importance to maintaining the watershed management in the Tiber Branch Watershed. Conserving established trees and replanting trees are of great value to watershed management, but for them to be of use to Old Ellicott City directly, they must be in that same watershed, and ideally on site.

Since the time of the first bill, which followed the first deadly flood in Ellicott City, we have seen an additional deadly flood happen in the same location. Maintaining the resiliency that is gained by conserving forest and trees in the Tiber Branch Watershed is ever more critically important than we first thought.

This bill will result in increased protections of forest and large trees that will in turn increase the resilience of the Tiber Branch Watershed, which will result in protection for Old Ellicott City. We urge you to pass this common sense and fiscally responsible bill.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Parsa
Chair, Howard County Sierra Club

Sayers, Margery

From: Phillip Dennis <ptendoc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: support of CB54-2022

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

Hello,
I writing to support this bill to strengthen natural measures to mitigate the flood risk in EC. Phillip Dennis, 2327 Daniels Rd., Ellicott City.

Sayers, Margery

From: Rose Edwards <Rosewards@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 5:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB 54

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

I support CB 54. Cutting down more trees in the Ellicott City watershed only exacerbates the erosion problems already evident in the surrounding communities.

Rose Edwards
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Ron Deibert <rjdeibert@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 4:07 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB54

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

I support CB54! Stop cutting down trees in Ellicott City! No waivers! No exchanges! For that matter, Ellicott City doesn't need any more development, at all - no one that lives here wants Ellicott City's trees to be mowed down and land overbuilt and traffic resembling Northern Virginia, except developers who profit from ruining our town.

Save the trees!

Ron Deibert

Sayers, Margery

From: Laura Chaney <LAURANORICO@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 3:08 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: YES to CB54-2022

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

Please support CB54. No tree exchanges for developers to flatten our tree lines and move them away from the watershed and render the natural land useless at preventing another devastating flood to the ellicott city area. Western Howard county doesn't need the trees from our area. We need our Trees to REMAIN in our area around the already overdeveloped watershed acres.

Thank you,
Laura Chaney
Ellicott City, D1 resident

The People's Voice, LLC

Ethics Ballot TM

3600 Saint Johns Lane, Suite D, Ellicott City, MD21042

September 18, 2022

County Council Testimony on CB 54

Group Testimony Support

Council Member Walsh is again trying so hard to protect the flood-prone areas of the County so deeply in need of stricter attention. Time and again she has brought out the need to plan in a more strategic and regional fashion, and yet, rarely does the majority of the Council participate in this deeply needed environmental and safety protection issue of the overly excessive deforestation in the Tiber Branch Watershed.

As you all know, for a long time, the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning granted waivers regarding forest conservation that were not in compliance with State required definitions of "hardship" criterion for waivers to cut more trees and larger trees. When things are done inappropriately in an extreme direction, it makes sense to push to protect what we have left, more vigorously. Will you all please do the right thing and assist the much needed protection of a watershed that has been allowed to be deforested far more than was even legally supposed to occur in the past?

We all know that these long-term intense clear-cutting projects have not been done with no ill effect. The Army Corps of Engineers noted in their hydrology report after the 2016 flood that deforestation does decrease the percentage of storm water retention on a parcel, even with mitigating efforts of new projects. This remains true even with updated standards. We need to start making our regulations more regionally-based to address differing needs of county areas. Not every area has the same topography nor flooding risks. The one size fits all waiver allowances criteria have to be revisited. This Bill is a good start.

Lisa Markovitz

President, The People's Voice