

Sayers, Margery

From: Hampton and Karen Knelly <hambandkaren@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 9:20 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 the Council Board:

We are very much in support of Bill CB54, to preserve trees and forest areas as they provide natural flood mitigation and protect our watershed. Yes, trees are important! We teach our kids that. Why wouldn't we want to practice that? Remember the old adage-If you do what you always did you get what you always got. No wonder there has been flooding in OEC!

We residents/voters do see what has been done, what is being done and what is approved. We are not happy. And, you seem to make it very hard to find out when these things get voted on-almost like no one wants us to be able to give input or to complain.

What happened to the trees that were supposed to sit on top of OEC, at Long Gate Overlook? Apparently, the developers were allowed to put them in Woodbine. That doesn't help the OEC watershed!

Why would a developer be allowed to cut down 72 trees in Taylor Highlands w/o authorization from the DPZ?

How about Towns at Court Hill. This developer received waivers for steep slopes, streams, and wetlands right above Old Town. It seems that he now wants to pay a fee rather than preserve the forest land and plans to cut down, at least one very large tree.

Why would DPZ let developers pay to get them out of preserving our land and watersheds? Dorsey's Ridge is a good example of that.

The developers for the Lacy property will be going to speak at the Historic Preservation Commission soon, to plead their case to cut down acres of trees that are very close to Main Street.

i could go on, but you know all of this and more.

Do the right thing.

Thank you.

Karen and Hampton Knelly
3604 Mellor Valley Court

Sayers, Margery

From: Penny Zimring <pzimring@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 11:59 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I strongly support CB54-2022

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

Dear Howard County Council,

I want to express my strong support for CB54-2022 proposed by Liz Walsh. It doesn't make sense to allow developers to have waivers and variances to cut down older, well-established trees whose roots absorb significant rainwater. Also, why are we spending millions of dollars to try to mitigate flooding in Historic Ellicott City due to over-development in the area, if we are going to let it continue at the current rate?

I was part of the 2016 Ellicott City flood. It was terrifying to narrowly escape the floodwaters that evening. Therefore, considering climate change and the quality of life in Howard County, we need to preserve all of our current natural resources rather than succumbing to the greed of developers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Penny Zimring
4126 Dee Jay Drive
Ellicott City

Sayers, Margery

From: Laurie Liskin <lliskin49@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 11:41 AM
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.]

Dear County Council members,

People move to Howard County to enjoy our beautiful environment including trees and undeveloped spaces. We should not sacrifice our environment for excessive development. Nor should we allow developers to pay fees in lieu to cut down trees and destroy our natural heritage.

We need our trees to prevent flooding and erosion, especially in the old Ellicott City area.

We need to preserve Howard County's natural environment for our children.

Developers may wring every bit of profit in the short term. All of us will lose in the long term.

Laurie Liskin
4642 Smokey Wreath Way
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: R Z <roohi_z@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 12:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB54 2022 - related

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

Dear Sir/ Madame,

Thank you for your acknowledgment of my previous letter in support of the above bill. However we simply need to do more. The CB54 2022 Bill has highlighted a fundamental need for our county and state to update our policies with a more comprehensive understanding of nature.

We need to build pressure to protect trees but we also need to raise the bar of future development. We simply cannot afford to ignore the nature assets we have in our area. We need to develop with our nature assets rather than demolishing them and only increasing the flood risk of our community. That just doesn't make sense.

A developer only speaks in monetary/numerical terms, so we need to quantify nature as such as well. Out of curiosity, the current developer fee seems very arbitrary and I wonder if it captures the full value reflective of the carbon sequestration, air purification, water absorption, heat reduction impacts, and bio habitation creation to name a few?? And what about the time it takes for the plantings to become comparable in their benefits to the established trees? Plus the cost of whatever else will need to be done to mitigate flooding now that the tree is gone?

My initial research showed that no one is doing the above, the forest conservation act of Maryland has some kind of formula, but there are no requirements for native trees, and developers only have to ensure success for only a year, which developers are able to work around.

Quantifying these benefits would provide a baseline to use and start by requiring that developers have to replace all these things plus additional (50%) rather than just a cash fee - they need to replenish what they are taking away. Something like this could also lead to developers getting rain water harvesting systems for non potable uses, or using green roofs and permeable surfaces to deal with storm water issues, or build in a flood resilient way. Obviously the best thing is that trees not be chopped down, but the next best thing is to get them to build features that they are taking away into the developments. This will certainly make it more expensive for developers - but in the long run it's going to be more sustainable, better for residents of said development, and good for all Howard county tax payers. Development will not stop but this kind of building will lead to a resilient Howard County.

Thank you

Roohi Zaidi

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Andrew Tsai <amtsai77@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 2:24 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please 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 to ask for your support of CB54 to preserve the trees of Ellicott City.

My grandmother, aunt, and cousins live in Brittany Manor and through the years we've noted increased flooding in their neighborhood.

Recently I was at their home during a rainy day and walking the dog and there was a river of water streaming down the sidewalk.

We need our trees and the root structures of plants to help hold the rainwater. Cutting down more trees and allowing more building on the land will surely make things worse.

I live in Font Hill in Ellicott City.

Please support CB54.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Tsai

Sayers, Margery

From: jackson tsai <jatsai@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 2:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support HB54

[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 to ask for your support of CB54 to preserve the trees of Ellicott City. My mother lives in Brittany Manor and through the years we've noted increased flooding in their neighborhood. Recently I was at their home during a rainy day and walking the dog and there was a river of water streaming down the sidewalk.

We need our trees and the root structures of plants to help hold the rainwater. Cutting down more trees and allowing more building on the land will surely make things worse.

I live in Font Hill on Cragsmoor Road in Ellicott City.

Please support CB54.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jackson Tsai

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Sayers, Margery

From: Lynn-Steven Engelke <lynn.s.engelke@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 1:58 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 strongly support CB54-2022 and would like to see it expanded to include all of Howard County.

We are losing far too much of Howard County's natural beauty and resources to large residential developments, off-site tree swaps, and other "in lieu of" agreements. The resulting environmental degradation and increasing climate change vulnerabilities are obvious and ongoing.

I encourage the passing of CB54 and look forward to the initiation of other legislation that will be widely-applicable to all of Howard County, will help mitigate existing damage, and will prevent more damage in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn-Steven Engelke
6164 Encounter Row
Columbia MD 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Alice Tsai <alicehsai@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 1:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please 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 to ask for your support of CB54 to preserve the trees of Ellicott City. My mother in law lives in Brittany Manor and through the years we've noted increased flooding in their neighborhood. Recently I was at their home during a rainy day and walking the dog and there was a river of water streaming down the sidewalk.

We need our trees and the root structures of plants to help hold the rainwater. Cutting down more trees and allowing more building on the land will surely make things worse.

I live in Font Hill on Cragsmoor Road in Ellicott City.

Please support CB54.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alice Tsai

Sayers, Margery

From: mk_donovan@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 12:57 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: ✉ In support of 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.
Save the forest and trees of Howard County!

Kelly Donovan
Howard County resident

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Steve <dccop58@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 3:36 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I Support CB54-2022

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

Steven Salsburg
5672 April Journey
Columbia, MD 21044
443-677-3015

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Chris Urban <crza938@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 7:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support CB54

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

It is important.

Chris

Sayers, Margery

From: F.H. <herlan1999@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:44 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Please support CB54

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

I am writing to implore your support of CB54 to preserve the trees of Ellicott City.

Dear friends and family of ours live in Brittany Manor and through the years we've noted increased flooding in their neighborhood. Recently, a family member was at their home during a rainy day and a flood of water streamed down the sidewalks. It is not safe and flooding can happen to these voting residents in your district.

Trees and root structures of plants help hold the rainwater. Grass and plants allow water to sink through the ground while pavement and concrete collect most of the water and filter it downward to neighbors below the development. We've seen this in the flooding in Ellicott City Main Street. I went to testify to the problem and was shut down by a lawyer who said I needed proof that grass and dirt and trees absorb water and pavement do not. It truly is simply common sense. A pool holds water because it does not absorb it. The lawyer shut down anyone trying to speak to prevent overbuilding and to protect the natural environment. The only person defending our neighborhood was Liz Walsh, so I only vote for her. I make a special effort to go out and vote for her and encourage friends and family to do the same. I definitely support constituents who support our neighborhood and pass on information about those who do not.

I'm active in my community, in my church and at schools, and I live in Burleigh Manor in Ellicott City.

Please vote in support of CB54.

Please do the right thing!

With God's Grace,

Felicia Ho

On Mon, Oct 3, 2022 at 1:46 PM Alice Tsai <alicehsai@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello,

I am writing to ask for your support of CB54 to preserve the trees of Ellicott City.

My mother in law lives in Brittany Manor and through the years we've noted increased flooding in their neighborhood. Recently I was at their home during a rainy day and walking the dog and there was a river of water streaming down the sidewalk.

We need our trees and the root structures of plants to help hold the rainwater. Cutting down more trees and allowing more building on the land will surely make things worse.

I live in Font Hill on Cragsmoor Road in Ellicott City.

Please support CB54.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sayers, Margery

From: Justin Carlson <Justin@the-carlsons.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 6:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: In support of **CB 54-2022**

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

I am Justin Carlson, and I live in Ellicott City's Historic District and Tiber Watershed.

As a lifelong Howard County resident, I've seen tremendous change over the past 40+ years, some good and some not-so-good, with overdevelopment.

Freewheeling development has already created numerous issues across the county, from Adequate Public Facilities, overcrowded schools, congested roads, and flooding and environmental concerns in Ellicott City's Historic District.

I encourage the Planning Board to start holding developers accountable and close loopholes that legislation such as County Bill 54-2022 would address.

As an Old Ellicott City resident, Vice President of my Community's Home Owners Association, and a resident who can see the Tiber River from my living window, I closely follow the Safe and Sound Flood Mitigation plan. That Developers are permitted to apply for waivers to the existing Forest Conservation regulations and pay a small fee to cut down mature trees and clear acres of forest in the sensitive Tiber Watershed is a severe problem. Removing the best natural flood mitigation we already have in place will only exacerbate the existing flooding problem while simultaneously working to destroy what little forest and mature trees we have left in the watershed.

Please pass Bill 54-2022 and end developer waivers in the Tiber Branch Watershed.

Thank You.

Justin Carlson

Justin Carlson
3913 Edith Ct,
Ellicott City, MD, 21043
Justin Carlson
Justin@the-Carlsons.com
Cell: 410-245-2556

Sayers, Margery

From: Linda Y. Tsai <tsailinda@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 9:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Save out trees

[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 to ask for your support of CB54 to preserve the trees of Ellicott City.

We live in Brittany Manor and through the years we've noted increased flooding in their neighborhood.

Recently I was just outside our home during a rainy day and walking the dog and there was a river of water streaming down the sidewalk. Many times when there's a downpour, the street in front of our house is flooded. Cars cannot pass without being stranded!

We need our trees and the root structures of plants to help hold the rainwater. Cutting down more trees and allowing more building on the land will surely make things worse.

I live in Brittany Manor on Brittany Drive in Ellicott City.

Please support CB54.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Tsai

Sayers, Margery

From: Michele Aylaian <msaylaian@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 8:33 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.]

Dear Council Members,
Please support CB54-2002 to protect the trees in Ellicott City's watershed area. Don't give developers any waivers that would allow them to cut down more trees. We need trees more than we need new development.

Respectfully,
Michele Silver-Aylaian
9963 Timberknoll Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Matthias Gobbert <gobbert@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 4:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: I support CB54 on tree conservation

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

Please note my support for CB54.

I will figure out how each council member votes on this.

Matthias Gobbert <gobbert@gmail.com>

Sayers, Margery

From: Alan Green <alangreen819@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:30 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 CB 54. Our natural ecosystems are more important than developer's profits.

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 10:19 AM
To: bcarr846@gmail.com
Subject: Council - Trees

First Name: Brenda

Last Name: Carr

Email: bcarr846@gmail.com

Street Address: 8685 Ridge Road

City: Ellicott City

Subject: Trees

Message: "CB54-2022 would preserve the forest and the trees. No more waivers to cut down our oldest, biggest trees in the Old Ellicott City watershed. No more tree swaps outside the watershed. And no more saying goodbye to some of the best natural flood mitigation we can get."

Sayers, Margery

From: Keith Kuhlemeier <kkuhleme@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 8:49 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Stop tree swaps

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

No more waivers to cut down our oldest, biggest trees in the Old Ellicott City watershed. No more tree swaps outside the watershed. And no more saying goodbye to some of the best natural flood mitigation we can get.”

Sayers, Margery

From: Quaker Nana <quakernana@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 12:43 PM
To: Quaker Nana; CouncilMail
Subject: Bill CB54-2022

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

Folks, my husband and I live in Old Ellicott City on Merryman St.
My daughter lives on 8000 block of Main St.

We moved here because we cherish this little town. Outside our windows we hear music and tourists every weekend.

Please protect this historic town, founded by Quakers. It is a rare gem.

We support Bill CB54-2022

The decision YOU make will have an impact that cannot be reversed.
There is much land to develop outside of our watershed.

Thank you,
Deirdre Foley Citro
8379 Merryman St
Ellicott City, MD 21043

--

Deirdre

Deirdre Foley Citro
717.940.8955 Texting is best
aka @QuakerNana on Twitter

Sayers, Margery

From: JOHN MEITL <jmeitl@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 12:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please support CB54

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

Sayers, Margery

From: Cheryl Arney <cherylarney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 3:32 PM
To: CouncilMail; Cheryl Arney
Subject: I support CB54-2022 to SAVE OUR OLD TREES!

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

I just heard from a neighbor in my community about this bill, CB54-2022. THIS IS IMPORTANT !!! New young trees can't replace big old trees -- that's common sense. And no amount of money can replace them. Money doesn't sequester carbon and hold soil in place -- that's what trees do. And trees in another part of the County don't do the job that trees do where they are located, protecting their own location from soil erosion and providing habitat for wildlife.

It makes no sense to give away trees (about 2000 of them), as Howard County just did, and then turn around and let developers cut down OLD trees that sequester much more carbon. This has been going on in Howard County, and it must stop. Developers: Build your houses AMONGST existing old trees. If you can't, our DPZ shouldn't be giving permission for you to build there.

Councilwoman Walsh has made an impassioned plea for this bill. I support her. **I strongly urge the Council to pass CB54-2022.** We need trees more than new developments in Howard County.

As an aside, when we bought our home in Dorsey Hall in Columbia in 1980, we chose the lot because it was wooded in front and had a cornfield in back. The trees (most of them) were saved, and we kept that small woods just as it had been when we bought it -- no messing around with it except for naturalizing some daffodils. The trees grew over the last 42 years. They're beautiful. I wake up in the morning looking out at those trees and watching the birds that fly by and land on them; I watch the squirrels chasing each other from tree to tree. Sadly, some of those 100+ year old trees died and had to be removed because they posed a danger to our house. We had the tree removal company leave 15 foot "snags" to provide habitat and to allow them to decompose naturally into compost. The arborist who looked at our dead trees thought they may have been killed by a 6 week summer drought in 2019 -- victims of a changing climate. I miss those three trees (a huge white oak and two maples). A couple more very tall, no doubt very old trees have died since. And the cornfield that had been in our backyard? It's now grass and trees and a rain garden and a pollinator garden and a VEGETABLE garden. We've got the best of both worlds, because the developer left the woods that has become our front yard.

Cheryl Arney
4361 Wild Filly Ct.
Ellicott City MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: no-reply@howardcountymd.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:04 PM
To: maryarrington9@gmail.com
Subject: Council - I support CB54-2022

First Name: Mary
Last Name: Arrington
Email: maryarrington9@gmail.com
Street Address: 2520 Pfefferkorn Rd.
City: West Friendship
Subject: I support CB54-2022
Message: I vote strongly for this bill.

Sayers, Margery

From: JT Nader <jtnader@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 11:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: CB54-2022 Save our Trees and our Watershed and our Towns

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

Dear Council members,

It's been clear for a long time that Maryland laws are favorable to land development. But with the Planet warming and climate change wrecking havoc around the world as well as right here in our neighborhoods (the Old Ellicott City floods, for example), it is time to adjust our laws to protect our towns and watersheds by protecting our Trees. There is no reason to allow irresponsible land development by cutting down old growth trees, building on steep slopes, or developing on watershed property. These areas need to be protected, or else we will all be paying a higher price down the road to fix the damages from flooding across our towns and in our homes and businesses. We need to take climate change seriously. It's not a problem that is just happening in Florida or Pakistan or Antarctica. It is happening right here too. We need to update our laws and enforce our laws to require developers to build appropriately in sustainable ways. That means not cutting down trees unnecessarily. Please pass CB54-2022 as a start toward protecting our Planet.

thank you, John Nader

Sayers, Margery

From: Julie A. Kennedy <jules3380@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 11:18 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: vote 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.]

Hello -

Please vote YES to **CB54-2022** - help us preserve our beloved town and prevent catastrophic flooding in the future. There should be NO waivers given to greedy developers who want to cut mature trees in our watershed. STOP development that is creating overcrowded schools and putting lives and livelihoods in danger.

Thank you for your consideration -
Julie A Kennedy
Ellicott City Resident

Sayers, Margery

From: Brenda <bgkaufman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 6:43 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. Please keep our environment healthy. Also please stop all this development.
Brenda kaufman

Sayers, Margery

From: KATHLEEN JESTES <heykathleen1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 12:00 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.]

Dear council members,

I heard this bill was tabled til another date. Please please vote to save these beautiful trees that help to contain run off—what can a little baby tree do to help that?

Why are the developers being allowed to build build build around Old Ellicott City when we all know they are part of the problem. We don't need any more congestion or flooding.

I wrote before but just decided to write again—mainly because I'm so afraid they are going to ruin our woods/stream below our house. They already cut down every tree behind our house to put in a retaining pond to build houses on the next street.

Thank you for listening.

Kathleen Jestes
4054 Overlook Dr
Off Old Columbia Pike

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Kathy Benton <KSBenton1@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 6:35 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.]

Stop cutting down all the trees around the area in order to build or do whatever. On one hand, you give away trees (in September); on the other hand, you let builders tear everything down. At the same time, you are spending billions to put in drainage because of all the water problems in the area. You always have the cart before the horse.

When we built a house in Ocean Pines, MD, they tagged the trees that could be taken down. The builder had to give them \$1,000. When the house was built, they returned to check the trees. If he only removed the marked trees, he got his money back. We should be doing that everywhere. There is no reason to bulldoze everything down; it is just easier and cheaper for the developer.

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: MSG <starzgaiano@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 7:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: In support of CB54

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

Dear council members,
I write to express my support for CB54 to help protect trees that are critical to the local watershed.
Thank you,
Michelle Starz-Gaiano
Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Eustis, Ann M. <aeustis@towson.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2022 4:34 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for CB54-2022

Importance: High

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

Sunday, October 2, 2022

Dear Howard County Council:

I wanted to express my strong support for CB54-2022 as forest conservation is critical for the life and health of our beloved community. Having lived on Fels Lane in the historic district of Ellicott City for 18 years, I have witnessed firsthand waiver after waiver in promotion of development. Steep slopes, specimen trees, flood risk have not seemed to matter. I have come to learn that the historic trees are considered part of what is supposed to be protected by living in an historic district yet waiver after waiver has been granted. We do a great disservice to those who want to live and enjoy our County after we are gone by not acting now. I applaud Councilperson Walsh's bill and hope it passes unanimously.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Eustis, resident

3618 Fels Lane E.C. , MD 21043

Meagan Braganca
CB54-2022 Written Testimony
IN FAVOR
October 17, 2022

The Forest Conservation rewrite of Howard County was celebrated and splashed across press releases when it was passed in 2019. It was a nice first step, but it's not nearly where we should be. It did not go far enough. If it did, it wouldn't have allowed for the continued deforestation throughout the county that has led to the necessity of this (and other) tree-protecting bills. When the constituents and county leadership understand that, the urgency of passing this bill becomes clear.

CB-54 specifies "*No Waivers of Floodplain, Wetland, Stream, FOREST CONSERVATION, or Steep Slope Regulations in the Tiber Branch Watershed*" unless certain conditions are present. The fact that waivers have continued to be allowed in the watershed after **three people** drowned in flash floods downtown is beyond comprehension.

It is a dishonor to the memory of the victims - **Jessica Watsula, Joseph Anthony Blevins, and Sgt. Eddison Hermond** - to continue to allow dangerous land use decisions that leads to further flooding. Trees and their root systems are the best tools we have to mitigate rainwater. The US Environmental Protection Agency, the Center for Watershed Protection and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay all say that in order to mitigate rainwater- plant trees and reduce impervious surfaces. We can read the thousands of pages of [material](#) out there on how development and the increase of impervious surfaces cause more runoff. But use your mind, your common sense: Development in a flood-prone watershed will worsen runoff problems, and no amount of gray infrastructure or retention ponds can make up for the vast portion of impervious space these developments produce.

I, and many environmentalists in this county, have been extremely disappointed at the dereliction of tree protection that has taken place not just the past few decades, but also the past few years. Vetoing a bill protecting large-diameter trees. I mean honestly, what are our priorities anyway?

I want to thank Councilmembers Liz Walsh and Deb Jung for seeing the forest through the trees, or in this case, seeing the stabilizing trees through the landmine forest of the current muck and corroded "leadership" that has led to a continued tradition of disastrous environmental decisions as they have pertained to forestation and its lackluster protection.

Please pass CB-54. If it fails to pass, the legacy of this council term will be one of failure in environmental protections.