

**From:** [Council Web Inquiry](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** funding cut for environmental education programs  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 8:25:09 PM

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

**Name** Peggy Hannon

**Email** peggyhannon@aol.com

**Number** 410-461-9230

**Address** 2304 Old Maple Court Ellicott City, Maryland. 21042

**Subject** funding cut for environmental education programs

**Message**

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.  
Sincerely, Peggy Hannon

**From:** [Peggy Hannon](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Funding Cuts for Environmental Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 8:30:18 PM

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

Dear Mr. Jones and members of the Council,  
I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Hannon

**From:** [Rex Carpenter](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)  
**Cc:** [meg.boyd@howardnature.org](mailto:meg.boyd@howardnature.org)  
**Subject:** In Support of Funding for Environment Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:24:56 PM

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

Dear Executive Ball, Howard Country Council members, and Howard County Board of Education members,

I am writing in support of funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy (HCC). As a volunteer Naturalist at the HCC I have had the opportunity to work with Ann Strozyk, the educator in this position, and know she offers an inspiring curriculum for her students in the Watershed Report Card program. While participating in the field for this program, it was refreshing to see high school students get excited about nature and the health of streams in Howard County.

As knowledge of the environment becomes increasingly important to our life style, if not our very survival, lets not neglect the education of our children. Please keep Ann Strozyk position funded as well as supporting other programs at HCC which provide a cost effective partnership in meeting the mandated environmental literacy graduation requirement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Rex Carpenter

**From:** [Robert Dudley](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); [BoE Email](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Environmental Education Budget  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:59:45 AM

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

Dr. Ball, Howard County Council members, and members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I cannot state in any stronger terms my opposition to the proposed cuts to the environmental educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. I am a 10-year Howard County science teacher and in my career the Howard County Conservancy, and more specifically its environmental educator, Ann Strozyk, have been instrumental in making Howard County a statewide and nationwide model for environmental education.

I have been involved in the Watershed Report Card Program since its inception and have seen first-hand, having personally guided over a thousand students through it, how students' perceptions of their environment change when they are given the opportunity to be a part of long-term, longitudinal data-collection in citizen science programs. They become much more aware of how their actions impact their surroundings and they make better decisions because of those experiences.

The relatively new Youth Climate Institute is a one-of-a-kind program designed to engage high school students in becoming environmental ambassadors to all who they interact with. This year my first-year chapter produced 9 certified ambassadors, two-thirds of whom have developed their own capstone projects to be completed over the summer so they can earn certified ambassadors with honors status. I could not possibly have run this chapter on my own without the support I have received from Ann and the Conservancy.

While I am not personally involved in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Climate Knowledge program, I know from my friends who are middle school teachers that it is highly impactful and very well received by both the students and the teachers.

Ann Strozyk is a nationally-recognized environmental educator in a county with NO dedicated environmental education facility. We have no "outdoor school" like other counties have. The vast majority of the programs she has developed and facilitated are grant-funded, costing the county next to nothing in comparison. The idea that we would even consider cutting such a position at this time, when climate change is a pending existential crisis, is ludicrous, and demonstrates a complete lack of understanding and value of the physical and intangible benefits it provides all of us. Please, find a place to cut spending somewhere else, because this proposed elimination of our sole, dedicated environmental educator would be a devastating loss for us all.

Sincerely,

Rob Dudley (he/him)  
Reservoir High School  
Anatomy & Physiology Teacher  
Biology Teacher  
[robert\\_dudley@hcpss.org](mailto:robert_dudley@hcpss.org)

**From:** [Robert Gladding](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Elimination of HCPSS Environmental Educator Position  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:56:13 AM

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

My name is Robert Gladding and I am a retired Howard County Educator. I am also a Volunteer Naturalist at the Howard County Conservancy. I am a lead for both the High Watershed Report Card and Climate programs which support Secondary Science curriculum at the high school and middle school levels.

I received some very concerning news today about county school system cuts to environmental education programs. These cuts would end our ability to provide the critical programming that we have built over decades.

The Howard County Board of Education has proposed cutting the full-time Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy after 16 years of groundbreaking environmental education programs that serve the students and teachers of HCPSS. The signature programming developed through this partnership is absolutely essential to the county's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirement.

Not only do we provide critically important science education but also engage and empower future generations in environmental stewardship. Our current environmental educator, Ann Strozyk, is nationally recognized for her contributions and programs in environmental science.

To be blunt, eliminating this position would be short sighted and foolish, depriving thousands of students in our system of meaningful, hands-on outdoor experiences. If we are truly committed to providing quality education concerning a critical issue like climate change, I do not understand why this position would be eliminated.

I urge you to reconsider this action in light of the imminent Council and BOE voting this week.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Robert Gladding  
8122 Calla Lilly Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

## Respass, Charity

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**From:** Russell Schumann <rschumann.elder@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** I KNOW YOU'LL DO THE RIGHT THING

[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 to let you know that I know you'll do the right thing and reconsider cutting funding for the Environmental Educator position at the **Howard County Conservancy**. This position is **ESSENTIAL** to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide **Watershed Report Card**, **Climate kNOWLEDge** and **Youth Climate Institute** rely on this position to provide **hands-on STEM learning for ALL Howard County students**. It's essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. **PLEASE DO NOT CUT FUNDING FOR THIS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT PROGRAM FOR OUR HOWARD COUNTY STUDENTS.**

Regards ... Russell Schumann, Certified Maryland Master Naturalist & Volunteer at the Howard County Conservancy

**From:** [Samantha Bourque](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Eliminating the Environmental Educator from the HC Conservancy  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:51:52 PM

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[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 am a HC Youth Climate Institute Ambassador (15 years old). I am entering my second year in YCI and working on my Capstone project as a rising Junior at Glenelg High School. I have learned a tremendous amount about climate change and the impact on the environment from local sources as well as global sources and ways to improve our own local ecosystem. The information I learned in YCI was not taught in school and I was even able to share it with other students at my school along with my friends and family. This program has helped me find a purpose and I would like to study Environmental Studies in college, because of the impact this program had on my life. None of this would have been possible without YCI and Mrs. Strozyk.

I am truly disappointed that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Samantha Bourque

**From:** [Sandeep Nadkarni](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Re: continued critical funding for environmental education  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 3:44:09 PM

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

Dear X,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Sandeep Nadkarni

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Sander Zaben](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** protect funding for Environmental Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 10:33:25 PM

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[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 am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Sander Zaben

**From:** [Stephanie Doodigian](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Education Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:54:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-iapysqt0.png](#)

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

Hello Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader.

**I was the recipient of the Green Apple Award this year. My motivation and insight into environmental programs such as our Watershed Report Card were reliant on our Environmental Educator at the Howard County Conservancy. Many of our students attend our stream field trip, participate in our schoolyard assessment and then go to programs such as the Youth Climate Institute. Our Environmental Educator provides the foundation for our students in environmental literacy.**

I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Thank you -

Stephanie Doodigian

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**Stephanie Doodigian (*she/her*)**  
**Oakland Mills High School**  
**Biology GT and AP Environmental Science Teacher**  
**Science Instructional Team Leader**

**Ohana Howard County Liaison**  
**Environmental Club**  
**Science Olympiad Coach**

**Twitter: Follow @MsDoodigian**  
**Instagram: sdoodigian**

**We Are *OM***  
**We Are Strongest Together!**  
**Moving Forward Together!**



**From:** [Stephanie Hikel](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Please continue to value environmental education for our students  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:11:04 AM

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

Dear Esteemed Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

As a parent of HCPSS students, a Girl Scout troop leader, and a resident who grew up here and moved back to raise a family, it would be extremely disheartening to see such a valuable resource be eliminated from our community.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hikel

**From:** [Sue & Tom Phipps](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't cut environmental education!  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 12:32:08 PM

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[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 am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Sue Phipps

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| Sue Phipps

**From:** [Susan Thornton Hobby](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental education funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:22:00 AM

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

Dear Council Members,

In a world that is desperate to find solutions to climate issues, I am astounded that the county is looking to cut the environmental educator position in the county school system. Children are our future, and only they can help solve the problem that we, the elder generation, have created. Taking away programs that educate them and give them hope to fight the climate crisis is tantamount to conceding that their future is lost.

The environmental educator position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state-mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader.

As climate activist and educator Jane Goodall said, "**I do have reasons for hope: our clever brains, the resilience of nature, the indomitable human spirit, and above all, the commitment of young people when they're empowered to take action.**"

I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.  
Thank you,  
Susan

--

Susan Thornton Hobby  
writer and editor  
[www.talkswithwriters.blogspot.com](http://www.talkswithwriters.blogspot.com)

"I know nothing in the world that has as much power as a word. Sometimes I write one, and I look at it, until it begins to shine."

– Emily Dickinson

**From:** [Suzanne M. Hughes](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); [BoE Email](#)  
**Subject:** say NO to cutting environmental education  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:34:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-Isabaibs.png](#)

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

Dr. Ball, Howard County Council members, and members of the Howard County Board of Education,

I cannot state in any stronger terms my opposition to the proposed cuts to the environmental educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. I am a 23-year Howard County science teacher and in my career the Howard County Conservancy, and more specifically its environmental educator, Ann Strozyk, have been instrumental in making Howard County a statewide and nationwide model for environmental education.

I have been involved in the Watershed Report Card Program since its inception and have seen first-hand, having personally guided over a thousand students through it, how students' perceptions of their environment change when they are given the opportunity to be a part of long-term, longitudinal data-collection in citizen science programs. They become much more aware of how their actions impact their surroundings and they make better decisions because of those experiences.

The relatively new Youth Climate Institute is a one-of-a-kind program designed to engage high school students in becoming environmental ambassadors to all who they interact with. This year my first-year chapter produced 9 certified ambassadors, two-thirds of whom have developed their own capstone projects to be completed over the summer so they can earn certified ambassadors with honors status. I could not possibly have run this chapter on my own without the support I have received from Ann and the Conservancy.

While I am not personally involved in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Climate Knowledge program, I know from my friends who are middle school teachers that it is highly impactful and very well received by both the students and the teachers.

Ann Strozyk is a nationally-recognized environmental educator in a county with NO dedicated environmental education facility. We have no "outdoor school" like other counties have. The vast majority of the programs she has developed and facilitated are grant-funded, costing the county next to nothing in comparison. The idea that we would even consider cutting such a position at this time, when climate change is a pending existential crisis, is ludicrous, and demonstrates a complete lack of understanding and value of the physical and intangible benefits it provides all of us. Please, find a place to cut spending somewhere else, because this proposed elimination of our sole, dedicated environmental educator would be a devastating loss for us all.

Suzanne M. Hughes  
Science department  
(she/her/hers)  
Reservoir High School  
Rainbow Representative  
Sponsor - Environmental Club, Gender-Sexuality Alliance, Knitting and Crocheting Club  
Lead Watershed Teacher  
RHS Chapter Sponsor - Youth Climate Institute



"A mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." -Oliver Wendell Holmes

"Imagine all the people sharing all the world." - John Lennon

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

**From:** [Tina Horn](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** I oppose cutting funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Conservancy  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:41:07 PM

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

Dr Ball and County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Christine (Tina) Horn

**From:** [Troy Stiltner](#)  
**To:** [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); [boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Environmental Education Cuts  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 7:24:56 PM

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

Executive Calvin Ball, Members of the Howard County Council and the Howard County Board of Education:

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut.

This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. Ann Strozyk has provided invaluable leadership in this position.

Given the current state of our environment and the climate emergency, this is NOT the time to be cutting environmental education - if anything, it must be expanded. We must educate and prepare our students and community for a rapidly changing world.

It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,  
Troy Stiltner  
concerned citizen and parent

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Heather Stiltner <[rainhe01@yahoo.com](mailto:rainhe01@yahoo.com)>  
**To:** Troy Stiltner <[stiltr01@yahoo.com](mailto:stiltr01@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 07:20:17 PM EDT  
**Subject:** Proposed Environmental Education Cuts

[cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov)  
[councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)  
[boe@hcpss.org](mailto:boe@hcpss.org)

Executive Calvin Ball, Members of the Howard County Council and the Howard County Board of Education,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut.

This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. Ann Strozyk has provided invaluable leadership in this position.

Given the current state of our environment and the climate emergency, this is NOT the time to be cutting environmental education - if anything, it must be expanded. We must educate and prepare our students and community for a rapidly changing world.

It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Heather Stiltner  
concerned citizen and parent

**From:** [Wendy Bourque](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Cutting the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 1:01:51 PM

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[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,

There is currently not enough education about the climate crisis for our youth. The climate crisis is huge. These programs are priceless in helping educate students in Howard County with hands-on experience. Our county has been a prime example for other MD counties as well as other states, because we are proactive and future focused.

I am truly disappointed that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bourque