

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Eric Trocher [erictrocher@hotmail.com]

Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 10:30 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

Several analyses done by the County over the past several years point to the need for this fee.

Our 2012 Phase II County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) suggests that such a fee would be the most fiscally prudent and reliable way to fund our stormwater management program. This assessment predates the state mandate for a county fee that was removed in the last session of the Maryland General Assembly. State mandates aside, I still believe that the fee is the most reliable and fiscally prudent way to address our stormwater management needs and requirements.

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I have not yet heard a compelling argument for CB52-2015 that overrides the significant tide of the County's own evidence in support of maintaining our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee.

And, perhaps most significant for me as a citizen, since the advent of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, I'm seeing the money I've contributed going into the ground, getting important work done. The stream restorations, tree plantings, infrastructure repairs and upgrades, and other projects already being done using dedicated funds from the fee have put us on the path towards safe, fishable, swimmable water in our local rivers and streams. I want to see that critical work continue apace, without being put at risk by budget uncertainties.

I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Eric Trocher

Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Brenda Weber [brendaweber@cavtel.net]

Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 9:26 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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Thank you.

Brenda Weber  
9125 Dunloggin Rd  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Katherine Feldman [kfeldmandvm@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 09, 2016 6:37 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

First of all, I am not so stupid to think that this is a tax on rain. I am horribly offended by the marketing ploys used to undermine this important mechanism to restore Maryland's waterways.

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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Thank you.

Katherine Feldman  
9012 Overhill Dr.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042



**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Annie Leverich [annie.emberland@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:26 PM

To: CouncilMail

**FILE COPY**

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

Annie Leverich

Silver Spring, MD 20910

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Ralph & Esen Paradiso [ralphjparadiso@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:45 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Ralph & Esen Paradiso  
5440 High Tor Hill  
Columbia, MD 21045

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Michael Wallman [mrmew55@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:46 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Thank you.

Michael Wallman  
5114 Montgomery Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Charles Johnson [Jake91234@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:47 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Thank you.

Charles Johnson

Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Lance Jordan [jordanl@nova.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:54 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Lance Jordan  
Microwave Telemetry, Inc.  
8835 Columbia 100 Parkway, Suites K, L, and M  
Columbia, MD 21045

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Meghaan Lane [meghaanlane@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:57 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Thank you.

Meghaan Lane  
9881 Lyon Ave.  
Laurel, MD 20723

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Sabrina Fu [sabrina.fu@umuc.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 12:58 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

Sabrina Fu  
9817 Madelaine Court  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Star Bogenschutz [larelle614@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:04 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Thank you.

Star Bogenschutz  
9020 Constant Course  
Columbia, MD 21046



## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Kurt Schwarz [krschwa1@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:07 PM

To: CouncilMail

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See the Bay Journal for July-August, which shows what these efforts have done for water quality in Baltimore. Howard should do its part to help clean up the Bay.

I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

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Thank you.

Kurt Schwarz  
9045 Dunloggin Ct.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Karen Ball [Scooterracing@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:15 PM

To: CouncilMail

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And, perhaps most significant for me as a citizen, since the advent of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, I'm seeing the money I've contributed going into the ground, getting important work done. The stream restorations, tree plantings, infrastructure repairs and upgrades, and other projects already being done using dedicated funds from the fee have put us on the path towards safe, fishable, swimmable water in our local rivers and streams. I want to see that critical work continue apace, without being put at risk by budget uncertainties.

I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Karen Ball  
10842 Hunting Ln.  
Columbia, MD 21044

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Richard Freas [rafreas@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:20 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

Several analyses done by the County over the past several years point to the need for this fee.

Our 2012 Phase II County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) suggests that such a fee would be the most fiscally prudent and reliable way to fund our stormwater management program. This assessment predates the state mandate for a county fee that was removed in the last session of the Maryland General Assembly. State mandates aside, I still believe that the fee is the most reliable and fiscally prudent way to address our stormwater management needs and requirements.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Richard Freas  
9465 Glen Ridge Drive  
Laurel, MD 20723

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Edward Packard [ed.packard@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:28 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Edward Packard  
3161 Elmede Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Samuel Newman [samuelnewman12@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:35 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Samuel Newman  
5245 Brook Way apt 2  
Columbia, MD 21044

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

MICHAEL SCHAUB [skatingfool@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:40 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Michael B.Schaub

6043 Majors Lane, Apt.1  
Columbia, MD 21045-4135

MICHAEL SCHAUB  
6043 MAJORS LN APT 1  
COLUMBIA, MD 21045

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

linda schiffer [lindaschiffer@me.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:44 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

linda schiffer  
6441 Oaken Door  
columbia, MD 21045



## Vote NO on CB52-2015

David Schwartz [Schwartzathon@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 1:49 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

David Schwartz  
8428 Braddock Way  
Columbia, MD 21046

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Omar Siddique [omars1234@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 2:05 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I am one of your constituents and a long-time Howard resident.

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Omar Siddique  
4517 Rebecca Court  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Maria Britt-Fendlay [pfendlay@howardcountymd.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 2:11 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Maria Britt-Fendlay  
8242 Academy Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Omar Siddique [omars1234@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 3:02 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Omar Siddique  
4517 Rebecca Court  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Lynn Lawton [skilawton@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 3:04 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Lynn Lawton  
10301 Pimlico Place  
Laurel, MD 20723

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Bronwyn Madeo [bmadeo@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 3:09 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Bronwyn Madeo  
10373 Scaggsville Rd  
Laurel, MD 20723

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Stephen Mitchell [sailinnervoice@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 3:45 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

While the bulk of this is a form letter, I want to make it clear that I am all for cleaning up our environment, and especially controlling storm water runoff. I am a long time county resident and have decided to retire here because this is a great place to live. Your job is to keep it that way.

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee

in place.

Thank you.

Stephen Mitchell  
8801 Bosley Road  
Apt. 302  
Ellicott City, MD 21043



## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Karen OSteen [kposteen@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 4:08 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I have not yet heard a compelling argument for CB52-2015 that overrides the significant tide of the County's own evidence in support of maintaining our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee.

And, perhaps most significant for me as a citizen, since the advent of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, I'm seeing the money I've contributed going into the ground, getting important work done. The stream restorations, tree plantings, infrastructure repairs and upgrades, and other projects already being done using dedicated funds from the fee have put us on the path towards safe, fishable, swimmable water in our local rivers and streams. I want to see that critical work continue apace, without being put at risk by budget uncertainties.

I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Karen OSteen  
10817 Graeloch Rd  
Laurel, MD 20723

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Karen OSteen [kposteen@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 4:08 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Karen OSteen  
10817 Grae Loch Rd  
Laurel, MD 20723

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Michael Koory [aquaticsklo@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 4:13 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

Michael Koory  
24 bellanca ct  
Baltimore, MD 21220

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Steven Bradtke [sjbradtke@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 7:16 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Steven Bradtke  
10088 Cape Ann Drive  
Columbia, MD 21046

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Virginia Woolridge [Gingerwoolridge@comcast.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 7:27 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

Virginia Woolridge  
207 Wardour Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Brian Heggelke [bheggelke@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 7:33 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Brian Heggelke  
603 Windmill Road  
Easton, MD 21601

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Christopher Valenze [cvalenze217@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 7:37 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

Christopher Valenze  
13766 Old Rover Road  
West Friendship, MD 21794

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Jeffrey Friedhoffer [jafried@ieee.org]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 7:47 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Friedhoffer  
10042 Mending Wall  
Columbia, MD 21044



**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

May Seidel [mayruthseidel@gamil.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 8:10 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

May Seidel  
5400 Vantage Point Road  
Apt 508  
Columbia, MD 21044

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Larry Katkow [Katkow@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 8:28 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

Larry Katkow  
5125 Bonnie acres dr  
Ellicott city, MD 21043

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

David Lyon [davemlyon@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 8:56 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Thank you.

David Lyon  
4032 Huckleberry Row  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Kara Skipper [kmbenton@smcm.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 9:15 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

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Thank you.

Kara Skipper  
5444 Tilted Stone  
Apt 99  
Columbia, MD 21045

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Phyllis Heffner [wtoole4@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 9:15 PM

To: CouncilMail

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Phyllis Heffner  
16491 AE Mullinix Rd  
Woodbine, MD 21797

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Beverly Riling [rilings@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 9:50 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

Several analyses done by the County over the past several years point to the need for this fee.

Our 2012 Phase II County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) suggests that such a fee would be the most fiscally prudent and reliable way to fund our stormwater management program. This assessment predates the state mandate for a county fee that was removed in the last session of the Maryland General Assembly. State mandates aside, I still believe that the fee is the most reliable and fiscally prudent way to address our stormwater management needs and requirements.

Recent County budget shortfalls indicate that finding dollars in the County General Fund will not be as simple and painless as the County Executive's financial assurance plan suggests. The need to fulfill the requirements of our MS4 permit may mean that other county public services get short shrift, and that is not a choice that I as a citizen and voter want to see us make. Better to keep the dedicated funding provided by the fee in place so that clean-up efforts don't have to compete with other priorities for County funds.

I have not yet heard a compelling argument for CB52-2015 that overrides the significant tide of the County's own evidence in support of maintaining our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee.

And, perhaps most significant for me as a citizen, since the advent of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, I'm seeing the money I've contributed going into the ground, getting important work done. The stream restorations, tree plantings, infrastructure repairs and upgrades, and other projects already being done using dedicated funds from the fee have put us on the path towards safe, fishable, swimmable water in our local rivers and streams. I want to see that critical work continue apace, without being put at risk by budget uncertainties.

I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Beverly Riling  
6315 Short Wheel Way  
Columbia, MD 21045

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Robert Ott [DrRobertOtt@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 7:13 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Robert Ott  
9643 Green Moon Path  
Columbia, MD 21046

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Donna Rabinowitz [Rrabinow@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 7:58 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Donna Rabinowitz  
11805 Snow Patch Way  
Columbia, MD 21044



**Fwd: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING**

Clay, Mary

**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 8:51 AM

**To:** Feldmark, Jessica; Sayers, Margery

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Salvator Cosentino <[scosentino@magnolia-companies.com](mailto:scosentino@magnolia-companies.com)>

**Date:** December 17, 2015 at 7:21:48 AM EST

**To:** "MaryKay@sigaty.com" <[MaryKay@sigaty.com](mailto:MaryKay@sigaty.com)>

**Cc:** "akittleman@howardcountymd.gov" <[akittleman@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:akittleman@howardcountymd.gov)>, "MKSigaty@HowardCountyMD.gov" <[MKSigaty@HowardCountyMD.gov](mailto:MKSigaty@HowardCountyMD.gov)>, "Clay, Mary" <[mclay@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mclay@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Subject:** THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-md-ci-sewer-overflows-20151214-story.html>

At the end of the year it is customary to count our blessings so I can be thankful that Howard county only has the onerous rain tax and not an odorous sewage problem (see attached).

In my testimony to the County Council I underscored the absurdity of counting rain drops from my roof when two waste treatment plants on the Patapsco River (see below).

<http://publicworks.baltimorecity.gov/Bureaus/WaterWastewater/Wastewater/PatapscoWastewaterTreatmentPlant.aspx>

I was mistaken. The amount of treated sewage is reportedly 63 million gallons per day!

That the treatment is effective is not convincing with respect to the impact to the BAY, since no one would drink it (but the fish and wild life have to do so).

That the rain tax concept ignores harmful law chemicals (signs posted in Cedar Lane Park & neighborhoods) is also absurd.

SAL COSENTINO

[Scosentino1940@gmail.com](mailto:Scosentino1940@gmail.com)

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Noah Fleischer [noahf925@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 10:16 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Noah Fleischer  
5308 Nightshade Court  
Columbia, MD 21045

## Fwd: Ltr. of Support for the Rain Tax Repeal

Feldmark, Jessica

**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 10:45 AM

**To:** Sayers, Margery

**Attachments:** HCAR (2015 Signed Support ~1.pdf (49 KB) ; ATT00001.htm (232 B)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Smith, Gary" <[gsmith@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:gsmith@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Date:** December 17, 2015, 10:32:05 AM EST

**To:** "Feldmark, Jessica" <[jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jfeldmark@howardcountymd.gov)>, "Wimberly, Theo" <[twimberly@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:twimberly@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Cc:** CouncilRecords <[councilrecords@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilrecords@howardcountymd.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Ltr. of Support for the Rain Tax Repeal

Hi Jess,

We received this testimony from Peter Morgan and HCAR this morning. I am sending to you to make a part of the record.

Best Regards,

Gary Smith  
Special Assistant to Councilman Jon Weinstein  
Howard County Council, District 1  
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
Office: (410) 313-2001  
Cell: (410) 459-8056

---

**From:** Peter Morgan [<mailto:pmorgan@hcar.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:56 AM

**To:** Smith, Gary

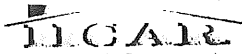
**Subject:** Ltr. of Support for the Rain Tax Repeal

Hi Gary! Per our discussion a couple of weeks back, attached is a copy of our letter of support of the Rain Tax Repeal legislation. We sent hard copies in the mail to all the Council Members yesterday which hopefully you'll receive by tomorrow at the latest. I wanted to email it to you to make sure you saw our letter before Monday's public hearing. I hope Jon or someone on the Council will introduce the letter into the record.

If you have any questions let me know. Happy Holidays! Peter

Peter Morgan  
Executive Vice President  
Howard County Association of REALTORS®  
5501 Twin Knolls Road, Suite 111

Columbia, MD 21045  
Office: 410-715-1437  
Fax: 410-715-1489  
Email: [pmorgan@hcar.org](mailto:pmorgan@hcar.org)  
Website: [www.hcar.org](http://www.hcar.org)



Howard County Association of REALTORS®  
5501 Twin Knolls Road, Suite 111  
Columbia, MD 21045  
410.715.1437 P  
410.715.1489 FAX

December 15, 2015

Dr. Calvin Ball, Chairperson, District 2  
Mr. Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson, District 1  
Ms. Jen Terrasa, Councilmember, District 3  
Ms. Mary Kay Sigaty, Councilmember, District 4  
Mr. Greg Fox, Councilmember, District 5  
Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043-4392

RE: CB52-2015, CR181-2015, and CR182-2015

Dear Members of the County Council:

The Howard County Association of REALTORS® supports the enactment of CB52-2015 which calls for the reduction of the existing Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee beginning on July 1, 2016 and the repeal of certain provisions in the County Code related to the fee as of July 1, 2017.

Among the jurisdictions in Maryland that impose this tax on its residents, Howard County's fee structure is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest and is slated to increase in the coming years if CB52-2015 is not passed. This tax impairs housing affordability for potential buyers in the County, increases rent, increases homeowners' monthly mortgage payments and reduces the amount of disposable household family incomes. This tax burden is particularly onerous to our low- to moderate-income families.

This tax also harms the County's commercial and industrial property owners. By significantly increasing commercial property tax bills by 10% or more, businesses in the County must ultimately pass on to the consumer, many of whom are also County residents, higher prices for goods and services. Moreover, higher taxes make Howard County less attractive to commercial enterprises seeking a place to establish, grow and create job opportunities.

Please support passage of CB52-2015 and the accompanying resolutions CR181-2015, and CR182-2015. Broad based home affordability and economic growth are critical to the long-term health and vibrancy of Howard County.

Sincerely yours,

Alicyn DelZoppo  
President  
Howard County Association of REALTORS®

**CBF Opposes CB52-2015**

Elaine Lutz - ext. 2165 [ELutz@cbf.org]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 10:49 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

**Cc:** Alison Prost [AProst@cbf.org]

**Attachments:** 12-17-15\_CBF\_letter\_Howard~1.pdf (211 KB)

Dear Members of the Howard County Council –

Attached please find correspondence from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation regarding CB52-2015, to reduce and repeal the County's watershed restoration fee. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the legal and practical ramifications of this legislation. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

*Elaine Lutz*

Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

6 Herndon Avenue

Annapolis, MD 21403

(443) 482-2165





**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**  
*Saving a National Treasure*

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AILEEN BOWDOIN TRAIN

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

December 17, 2015

Re: Bill No. 52-2015 Amending and Abrogating the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) understands the Council is considering legislation titled CB52-2015 that would reduce and ultimately repeal the County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee. CBF is concerned that this action would undermine the County's watershed restoration program and interfere with the County's ability to comply with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. These concerns are based on the County's own observations about the inability to fund and implement the stormwater pollution reduction projects required under the latest MS4 permit without stormwater remediation fee revenue. CBF is also concerned that the financial assurance plan submitted with the legislation relies on unlikely future changes to state law and anticipates finding millions of dollars in an already fully-allocated general budget.

Stormwater, or polluted runoff, is a major source of pollution to County rivers and streams, washing grease, oil, pet waste, trash, chemicals, and fertilizers off lawns and streets and into local waterways. This polluted runoff fouls local waters, making them unsuitable for recreational use and threatening local drinking water reservoirs. In the Upper Patuxent River watershed, including the Western Branch, Little Patuxent River, Middle Patuxent River, Rocky Gorge Dam and the Brighton Dam, polluted runoff contributes 32% of the phosphorus, 35% of the nitrogen, and 46% of the sediment that is currently impairing the watershed.

In developing the County's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP),<sup>1</sup> the County acknowledged the enormous negative impact of polluted runoff and the increased obligations to deal with this pollution source under the Chesapeake Bay Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) and MS4 Permit. The County's WIP states that, "[m]ost importantly, the County is conducting a thorough study to structure and **implement a stormwater fee** designed to fund the restoration efforts required to achieve the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and other mandates... Once the structure for the stormwater remediation fee is

<sup>1</sup> Howard County, Maryland. Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Total Daily Maximum Load. Originally submitted November 18, 2011, Revised July 2, 2012. Available at: [http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Documents/FINAL\\_PhaseII\\_Report\\_Docs/Final\\_County\\_WIP\\_Narratives/Howard\\_WIPII\\_2012.pdf](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Documents/FINAL_PhaseII_Report_Docs/Final_County_WIP_Narratives/Howard_WIPII_2012.pdf)

approved, it will provide increased and sustained funding for the watershed management program, as it expands in response to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and other regulatory requirements."<sup>2</sup> This statement recognizes the utility of a consistent revenue source to deal with a growing pollution problem that is also subject to increasing regulatory requirements. The WIP also acknowledges that the County's efforts to implement a stormwater remediation fee began *before* the state legislation that required Phase I MS4 counties to implement such a fee.<sup>3</sup> This demonstrates that the County's stormwater remediation fee is based on an analysis of the County's specific needs, and the County's determination that the most fiscally prudent and reliable method of funding the stormwater program is through a reasonable stormwater remediation fee.

In fact, just last year, three County department directors identified a need for an *increase* in stormwater remediation fees in order to comply with federally mandated obligations and permit terms.<sup>4</sup> In light of the County's initial assessment finding that stormwater remediation fees are necessary to comply with federally mandated obligations, and the additional findings that the fee may need to be increased, it is hard to see how the County intends to comply without this essential revenue. CBF has seen nothing that would indicate that the County's finances have changed so dramatically as to make these previous assessments no longer valid.

The stormwater remediation fee is also one of the only tools the County possesses to address another commonly identified problem: the need to implement stormwater projects on private property. In developing watershed assessments and Countywide Implementation Strategies (CIS), the County has identified numerous times that the limited availability of county-owned land is a major hurdle in meeting permit requirements,<sup>5</sup> and that there is a "private property approach needed."<sup>6</sup> The County's Department of Public Works director also told the Council last year that the County cannot meet federal goals by improving only public land.<sup>7</sup> The only incentive the County currently employs to implement projects on private property is the credit system provided by the stormwater remediation fee. While the County has attempted to educate property owners and has distributed some free rain barrels, the only financial driver for implementing projects on private property is reductions in the property's stormwater fee under the credit program. The County's WIP provides no alternative for reaching private property, and even discounts very efficient and cost-effective stormwater projects due to the opportunity's location on private property.

The "financial assurance plan" titled Resolution No. 182-2015 submitted by the County Executive does not relieve CBF's concerns that the County will be unable to comply with

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at page 4.

<sup>3</sup> "This [stormwater fee] study began in 2011, prior to the recent state legislation (HB 897) requiring implementation of such a fee." *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Comments made during a budget work session in May 2014. *See* Yeager, Amanda. "Howard Might See Stormwater Fee Increase, Officials Say." *The Baltimore Sun* 13 May 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Clean Howard County Stormwater Solutions. Southern Little Patuxent River Watershed Assessment, Community Meeting No. 2 Presentation. December 3, 2015. Available at:

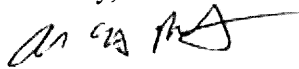
<sup>7</sup> Comments made during a budget work session in May 2014. *See* Yeager, Amanda. "Howard Might See Stormwater Fee Increase, Officials Say." *The Baltimore Sun* 13 May 2014.



its permit and unable to meet the federally mandated TMDL requirements. The financial assurance plan relies on unlikely future changes to state law and does not explain how the budget analysis and shortfalls of previous years will not only be fully resolved, but allow for additional revenue in the millions to be available. Previous budget shortfalls make it highly likely that eliminating the stormwater fee will force vital county resources to compete against each other. The financial assurance plan for fiscal year 2017 still relies heavily on stormwater remediation fees that have been collected and will be collected next year. This does not provide CBF with any assurance that this fee revenue is unneeded and that the program can continue without it. The plan also inexplicably relies on unlikely changes to state law that would allow the County to raid the Agricultural Land Preservation Program fund for stormwater projects. The Agricultural Land Preservation Program is an incredibly important program for the state of Maryland as our agricultural lands are facing unrepresented development pressure. It does not make sense to raid another dedicated fund to support work that has its own independent restricted funding source. Furthermore, it is incredibly unlikely that the state legislature will allow this dramatic policy change. Finally, the plan relies on governmental obligation (GO) bonds for nearly the full cost of the program in fiscal year 2018, but does not identify the source of funding to support these bonds. In fiscal year 2015, the County experienced a \$15.8 million shortfall, requiring mid-year budget cuts. It does not stand to reason that the future budgets will allow for millions of unallocated dollars to support the \$19 million issued in bonds presumably every year of this permit term. It is hard to fathom where that money will come from without cutting other essential services such as school funding, transportation, or social services.

In conclusion, CBF believes the County's specific circumstances, as stated repeatedly over the years by County staff and officials, indicate that a repeal of the stormwater remediation fee would unduly interfere with the County's progress towards permit compliance and TMDL goals. Eliminating the fee would stunt the County's ability to implement much-needed private property projects and likely result in competition between County services to obtain limited resources. CBF cannot see what has changed from the County's initial assessment in 2011 that a stormwater fee is a reasonable, fiscally prudent means to obtain clean, healthy local waters and to comply with legal and regulatory requirements. In fact, that initial assessment has been reaffirmed and even expanded over the years since 2011. We would appreciate meeting with each Councilmember to discuss the implications of passing this legislation, and will be reaching out to schedule such meetings.

Sincerely,



Alison Prost  
Maryland Executive Director

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Lauren Winther-Hansen [lwhansen@cbf.org]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 1:24 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine the county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode its ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

Several analyses done by the County over the past several years point to the need for this fee.

Our 2012 Phase II County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) suggests that such a fee would be the most fiscally prudent and reliable way to fund the stormwater management program. This assessment predates the state mandate for a county fee that was removed in the last session of the Maryland General Assembly. State mandates aside, I still believe that the fee is the most reliable and fiscally prudent way to address stormwater management needs and requirements.

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I have not yet heard a compelling argument for CB52-2015 that overrides the significant tide of the County's own evidence in support of maintaining its Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee.

And, perhaps most significant for me as a citizen, since the advent of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, I'm seeing the money I've contributed going into the ground, getting important work done. The stream restorations, tree plantings, infrastructure repairs and upgrades, and other projects already being done using dedicated funds from the fee have put the county on the path towards safe, fishable, swimmable water in local rivers and streams. I want to see that critical work continue apace, without being put at risk by budget uncertainties.

I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in Howard county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Lauren Winther-Hansen  
1354 Tanook Court  
Annapolis, MD 21409

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Joseph Anonuevo [bayhound96@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 2:14 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

Several analyses done by the County over the past several years point to the need for this fee.

Our 2012 Phase II County Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) suggests that such a fee would be the most fiscally prudent and reliable way to fund our stormwater management program. This assessment predates the state mandate for a county fee that was removed in the last session of the Maryland General Assembly. State mandates aside, I still believe that the fee is the most reliable and fiscally prudent way to address our stormwater management needs and requirements.

Recent County budget shortfalls indicate that finding dollars in the County General Fund will not be as simple and painless as the County Executive's financial assurance plan suggests. The need to fulfill the requirements of our MS4 permit may mean that other county public services get short shrift, and that is not a choice that I as a citizen and voter want to see us make. Better to keep the dedicated funding provided by the fee in place so that clean-up efforts don't have to compete with other priorities for County funds.

I have not yet heard a compelling argument for CB52-2015 that overrides the significant tide of the County's own evidence in support of maintaining our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee.

And, perhaps most significant for me as a citizen, since the advent of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, I'm seeing the money I've contributed going into the ground, getting important work done. The stream restorations, tree plantings, infrastructure repairs and upgrades, and other projects already being done using dedicated funds from the fee have put us on the path towards safe, fishable, swimmable water in our local rivers and streams. I want to see that critical work continue apace, without being put at risk by budget uncertainties.

I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Joseph Anonuevo  
3265 Halcyon Court  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

## Vote NO on CB52-2015

Brian Cannon [bcannon\_@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 6:11 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Brian Cannon  
4713 Kirkstall rd  
ellicott city, MD 21043

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

George Osing [osing2@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 8:58 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

George Osing  
4119 Dee Jay Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Joshua Jamison [jnjamison@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 11:18 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Joshua Jamison  
11308 Old Hopkins rd  
Clarksville, MD 21029

**Vote NO on CB52-2015**

Lisa Friedman [lisalopez4@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 7:56 AM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal Howard County's Watershed Protection and Restoration fee.

I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program and erode our ability to meet the requirements of our federal MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit. Removing the fee is a bad choice that could jeopardize Howard County's water quality and a future of fishable, swimmable rivers and streams.

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I hope that you will see the fiscal prudence of having a dedicated stormwater remediation fee available to help fund the important work of cleaning up polluted runoff in our county.

Please vote "no" on CB52-2015, and keep our Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee in place.

Thank you.

Lisa Friedman  
8784 Tamar Dr.  
Columbia, MD 21045

**stormwater fees**

Larry Carson [karasov1@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 25, 2015 5:00 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

**FILE COPY**

I saw on Facebook yesterday that the county executive and councilman Fox are proposing to eliminate the storm water fees in Howard county. Based on my observations of the county's budget process over a period of 12-13 years, I noticed that as budget deadlines neared each spring, the first things to be cut were things like renovating storm water ponds and other "unglamorous" projects that the public took little notice of.

If the county removes the fee that provides a dedicated income stream for these very important projects to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, I'm afraid that decades old pattern will quickly return. I would urge the council and the executive to show the courage that former executive Chuck Ecker did in enacting a separate dedicated fee for trash collection and disposal, and retain Howard's minimal storm water fee.

Larry Carson





## **Storm water fee**

Alan Pflugrad [pflugal@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, November 27, 2015 8:18 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

I recommend that the county maintain the fee on storm water because 1. significant progress has been initiated and 2. significant water quality problems remain.

Before the executive and council repeal or phase out the existing fee, please communicate clearly where the money will come from (and how much) in order to meet Clean Water Act mandates.

Please note the progress in work around the county and state as evidenced by thousands of volunteers planting trees/riparian buffers, rain gardens, and much more. The plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay is based on sound data and enforcement plans. Let is work please.

Repealing the fee without designating explicitly where the money will come from is irresponsible and demoralizing.

Alan Pflugrad  
7454 First League  
Columbia Md 21046  
410 440-0135

## **Maintain Storm Water Remediation Fee**

Jnjs Dad [jnjsdad@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, November 29, 2015 3:39 PM

**To:** CouncilMail

I recommend that the county maintain the storm water remediation fee

1. Progress has been initiated to lower Howard County pollution due to storm water.
2. Significant water quality and storm water remediation problems remain.

Before the Executive and Council repeal or phase out the existing fee, please identify where the money will come from in order to meet Clean Water Act mandates.

Note the progress in work around the county and state as evidenced by thousands of volunteers planting trees/riparian buffers, rain gardens, and much more. The plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay is based on sound data and enforcement plans. Please let it work.

--

**Mike Calvert**  
**6644 Corina Ct.**  
**Columbia, MD**  
**21044**

## Storm water management

Ann Coren [anncoren@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 8:10 AM

To: CouncilMail

Subject: Maintain Storm Water Remediation Fee

To: [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)

I would like to live in an environmentally healthy community.

I highly recommend that the county maintain the storm water remediation fee and even increase the incentives to citizens to install storm water control measures on their property.

1. Progress has been initiated to lower Howard County pollution due to storm water.

2. Significant water quality and storm water remediation problems remain.

Before the Executive and Council repeal or phase out the existing fee, please identify where the money will come from in order to meet Clean Water Act mandates.

Note the progress in work around the county and state as evidenced by thousands of volunteers planting trees/riparian buffers, rain gardens, and much more. The plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay is based on sound data and enforcement plans. Please let it work.

Ann Coren  
6449 Browsing Deer  
Columbia, MD  
21045

Sent from my iPhone

## Maintain Storm Water Remediation Fee

Rhoda T [tobackord@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, December 04, 2015 10:53 AM

**To:** CouncilMail

**Cc:** Kittleman, Allan

I recommend that the county maintain the storm water remediation fee

1. Progress has been initiated to lower Howard County pollution due to storm water.
2. Significant water quality and storm water remediation problems remain.

Before the Executive and Council repeal or phase out the existing fee, please identify where the money will come from in order to meet Clean Water Act mandates, not just for today but for the future as well.

Note the progress in work around the county and state as evidenced by thousands of volunteers planting trees/riparian buffers, rain gardens, and much more. The plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay is based on sound data and enforcement plans.

*Please let it work.*

--  
Rhoda Toback  
10055 Windstream Drive  
Columbia, MD  
21044

--  
Rhoda Toback  
HowardCountyMasterWatershedSteward  
[Tobackord@gmail.com](mailto:tobackord@gmail.com)  
[410.730.8758](tel:410.730.8758) (t)  
[410.440.9606](tel:410.440.9606) (c)

## **Storm Water Remediation Fee**

Alan Pflugrad [pflugal@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 05, 2015 6:00 PM

**To:** Kittleman, Allan

**Cc:** CouncilMail

To: County Executive

I support the existing Storm Water Remediation Fee.

In your statement to repeal the fee, you indicated that the fee could be replaced by use of the "general fund" and "obligation bonds". Please explain specific details about how the general fund will be used - that is which existing programs will be impacted by using the general fund for watershed protection. Won't the use of "obligation bonds" generate debt that has to be paid and where will the money to pay down that debt be found?

In my opinion, should you repeal the fee, the county won't be able to replace that dedicated source of funding without cutting other programs. Without the dedicated funding, the overall plan to clean our waters won't be implemented.

Our county has made significant progress in the past several years with significant constructive participation of numerous county government and non profit organizations. Your removal of the dedicated source of funding will significantly impact this progress and associated morale of numerous volunteers.

Thanks and I look forward to your reply.

Al Pflugrad  
7454 First League  
Columbia Md 21046  
410 440-0135.

**Plese**

Bob and Sue Brown [brownrs10@verizon.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, December 06, 2015 6:50 PM

**To:** CouncilMail; Kittleman, Allan

Please keep the "rainwater fee".

Robert Brown

**Blog: Howard County Needs the Rain Tax**

Lori Lilly [lorililly@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2015 9:04 PM

**To:** Lori Lilly [lorililly@gmail.com]

Wishing you well this upcoming holiday season! I hope that you will check out (and share) my latest blog, "Howard County Needs the Rain Tax." <http://www.lorialilly.com/blog/?p=81>

Thank you!

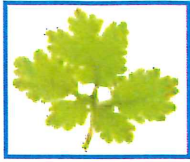
Lori

--

Lori A. Lilly

<http://www.lorialilly.com/>





[Lori A. Lilly](#) Environmental Solutions

- [Visit Lorialilly.com](#)

## Howard County Needs the Rain Tax

December 8, 2015 lorililly@gmail.com [Uncategorized](#)

I wrote this blog primarily because I would not be able to communicate all of this need justifying the Rain Tax, aka the stormwater utility fee, aka the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, in a 3-minute public testimony to the County Council. I have sent a link to this blog to all of Howard County's Council Members, the County Executive and members of the public that are welcome to use any of this same information as they see fit. Much of the factual information in this blog comes from the Center for Watershed's Protection 2014 Fact Sheet called The Value of Stormwater Utility Fees in MD . The Fact Sheet presents a cogent argument for stormwater utility fees generally as well as history and case studies.

Communities across the nation with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to manage their municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) realized pretty quickly that there is too much work to be done to meet the requirements from the general budget (without even getting into Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and impervious cover retrofit requirements). From 1974 to 1996, there were an estimated 300 stormwater utilities nationwide and 600 by 2007 . Takoma Park was the first Maryland municipality to establish a stormwater utility fee in 1996 with others like Montgomery County and Annapolis quickly following. It is estimated that between 1,800-2,000 stormwater utilities exist nationwide today . These communities recognize that the need to manage these public services, this incredible network of pipes, inlets, ponds and other infrastructure, as well as the needs to meet stormwater regulatory requirements requires a sustainable and adequate funding mechanism. Funding stormwater management programs through the general fund may create a system where some property owners overpay for stormwater services, while others become subsidized because the fee is based on property taxes as opposed to the actual stormwater runoff from a property (Figure 1).

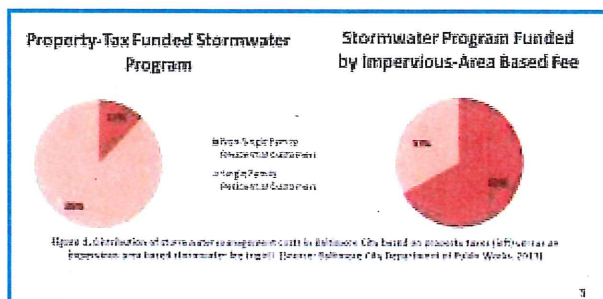
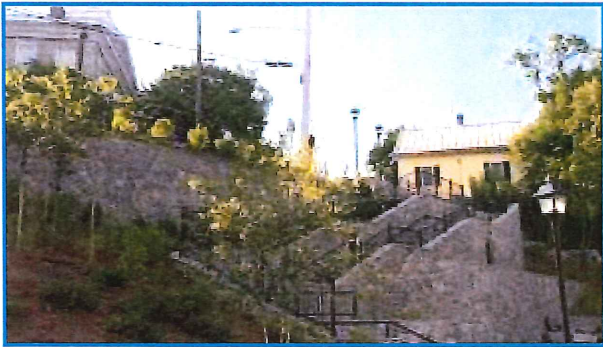


Figure 1. Distribution of stormwater management costs in Baltimore City on property taxes (left) versus an impervious-area

based stormwater fee (right) Source: CWP 2014.  
Fact Sheet The Value of Stormwater Utility  
Fees in MD.

Many of the benefits of stormwater fees are relevant right here in Howard County:

- Stormwater management practices have multiple economic and social benefits, for example, reduced noise pollution, reduced energy usage, increased recreational opportunity, and reduced flooding to name just a few. A good example of aesthetic and functional stormwater management is “The Staircase” in downtown Ellicott City. The Staircase was installed to stabilize a hillslope that had failed in one of the parking lots and features a series of step pools and waterfalls that filter polluted stormwater runoff from the upland courthouse area. It is an impressive feature that provides connection from under-utilized parking in the upper elevations of Ellicott City to the downtown itself. People proudly post selfies of themselves on the Ellicott City facebook page as a badge of pride.



- Adequately funded stormwater management programs contribute significantly to local economies and their associated businesses and industries. As stated in the CWP Fact Sheet, “Every dollar invested in stormwater management and restoration activities will directly support jobs in a variety of industries such as engineering, landscaping and construction.” Spending from households is stimulated by resulting income and employment changes due to stormwater management projects. In Howard County, the READY program (Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth, a young adult environmental workforce program, a project that I currently manage) spent \$50,000 of our program income on supplies and materials at local businesses such as MD Ground Covers, Kendall Hardware and Sun Nurseries between July and September of this year. We purchase many of our plants from a place called the Providence Center, which provides job skills development opportunities to those with disabilities. In addition, because all of our employees are Howard County residents, our own paychecks go back into the local economic engine. Our program, funded in part by the stormwater utility fee, is helping to spur the local economy.
- Many municipalities with stormwater utility fees also have incentive programs to help alleviate the burden of the fee while also addressing the need for the fee to begin with. Municipalities may have credits and rebate programs to incentivize the installation of stormwater practices by property owners. Howard County has a credit and rebate program for residential homeowners as well as the commercial sector. In addition, Howard County has a Non-Profit Partnership Program that provides significant benefit to non-profits that agree to participate in the program, in fact, their fee goes to zero by signing on to the agreement. Watershed advocates in the public and non-profit sector further market these credit and incentive programs in order to facilitate more restoration and progress towards the watershed restoration goals.



- The stormwater utility is paying for a requirement, a permit obligation and more than one regulation. These things will require a significant investment in resources to meet. In fact, many local governments; including Howard County, will not have enough revenue even with the fee to meet the new stormwater management requirements and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals. It could also be argued that if the remediation is funded out of the general fund, taxes would be increased across the board to cover the extra expense. Once those costs go up, they will never disappear. A dedicated fee may disappear one day if the job is accomplished that it is intended to accomplish.
- And on that vein, a dedicated fund also equates to increased accountability for the expenditure of the funds. The money can only be spent one way. We are required to meet this and that regulation, this fee helps us do that, and this is what we did with the money to help meet this and that regulation – come on, let’s go look at what we did.
- Finally, having a dedicated source of funds with a name like “Watershed Protection & Restoration Fund” allows us the opportunity to educate the public about the very issues that created the need for the fee in the first place. If this cost is buried in bonds and property taxes, we will have a much harder time meeting the goals. Public education about the issue is a necessity for getting the job done.

County Executive Kittleman and County Councilmember Greg Fox announced on 11/24/2015 their plan to phase out the Watershed Protection and Restoration fee:

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/News112415.htm>. The reason stated in the press release for eliminating the fee was that it is an “unnecessary and excessive burden” to the resident and small business population. I did a small survey in Howard County to see if this was the case and the results that I obtained show that 75.4% of the sample (n=73) do not find the fee to be a burden, don’t know about the fee or haven’t noticed the fee (Figure 2). (If you would like to participate in the survey, you can do so here: <http://goo.gl/forms/H1b4I4T6iy>) And for those that do find the fee to be burden, there is a hardship credit to provide assistance for those that qualify: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1465>

If the County Councilmembers that are reading this blog find dispute with this survey or feel that this survey is biased in some manner, I would encourage him/her to otherwise gather some factual information from his/her constituents to indicate otherwise and please share this information with the public as justification for phasing out the fee. That the fee is a burden seems like a pretty nebulous and non-factual statement to justify eliminating a source of revenue that has all of the benefits identified above.

After all, we are in a County with an AVERAGE income of \$108,844 – the third-highest median household income of any U.S. county as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2012. Many people report moving to Howard County “for the schools.” Clearly this is a population that cares about the future. My own kids started learning about the Chesapeake Bay in 6th grade in Howard County – this is embedded into the school curriculum. We care about our children in Howard County, we care about their futures, we care about the Bay, we care about our local natural resources. Let’s put our money where our mouths are.

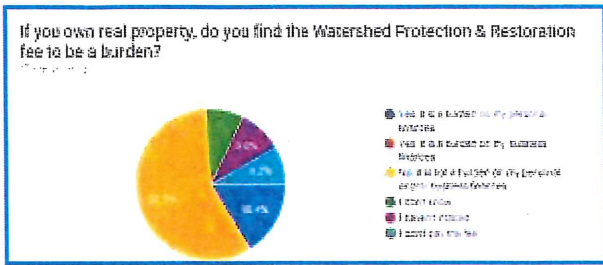


Figure 2. Survey of Howard County residents regarding whether the stormwater utility is a financial “burden” for them.

I encourage you to please leave comments below to indicate your support (or not) of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund. #HoCoBlogs

### 2 Responses to “Howard County Needs the Rain Tax”

- 
 Gayle Killen says:  
[December 8, 2015 at 10:01 pm](#)

I support the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund.

[Reply](#)

- 
 lorililly@gmail.com says:  
[December 8, 2015 at 10:06 pm](#)

Yay Gayle!!

[Reply](#)

### Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*

Name \*

Email \*

Website