

Please Vote "NO" on CB52-2015

Mary Boughn [pboughn@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 2:28 PM

To: CouncilMail

I am writing to you to urge you to vote "NO" on CB52-2015. Removing the polluted runoff fee is neither fiscally nor environmentally responsible and above all else, the polluted runoff fee is needed to continue progress on clean water in Howard County.

Polluted runoff flows off of our streets, parking lots, and building rooftops. It picks up fertilizers, pesticides, oil, and automotive fluids, pet waste, sediment, and other pollutants.

This runoff pollutes our rivers and streams and threatens our drinking water. It also causes problems like local flooding of streets and homes. We need the polluted runoff fee to prevent further harm to our local waterways.

Please vote NO on CB52-2015. The fee must stay in place for the sake of clean water and quality of life in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate a response to my request.

Mary Boughn
4668 Clydesdale Ct.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Comment in Support of the elimination of the stormwater fee as defined in CB 52-2015 (and its associated resolutions, CR 181-2015 and CR 182-2015)

tngiovanis@aol.com

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 1:26 PM

To: CouncilMail

I write in support of CB 52-2015 and its associated resolutions CR 181-2015 and CR 182-2015. While the reasoning behind the enabling legislation HB 987 and implementing CR 88-2013 can be debated its implementation has been misapplied in Howard County and needs to be corrected.

While many Maryland counties ignored the statute's direction to assess fee on property owners, Howard County chose to assess fees directly on property owners. At the time while there was much testimony about the methodology and rationale for the Howard Count proposed and adopted method, the legislation was adopted essentially as proposed. Then, the legislation was changed to relieve the fee/tax burden from residential property owners, nevertheless the logic of the fee basis remains in question.

The currently proposed legislation CB 52-2015 and associated resolutions would remedy the allocation of the fee among taxpayers by allowing the monies to come from county revenues generally rather than specifically from the fee as allowed by SB 863 of 2015. This method would strike a more reasonable and fairer balance for the generation of fee revenues as a opposed to the present fee/tax system. Accordingly, I urge you top support CB 52-2015 and its associated resolutions.

If you have any questions or need clarification about these comments, please feel free to contact me.

Theodore Giovanis ts
The Jayne Koskinas Ted Giovanis Foundation
TeamTGM
T.Giovanis & Company, LLC

P.O. Box 130, Highland, MD 20777-0130
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Please Vote "NO" on CB52-2015

David Dammen [ddammen@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:45 PM

To: CouncilMail

I am writing to you to urge you to vote "NO" on CB52-2015. Removing the polluted runoff fee is neither fiscally nor environmentally responsible and above all else, the polluted runoff fee is needed to continue progress on clean water in Howard County.

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Please vote NO on CB52-2015. The fee must stay in place for the sake of clean water and quality of life in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate a response to my request.

David Dammen
9541 Angelina Circle
Columbia, MD 21045

Support Howard County Storm water Fee Elimination (CB 52-2015)

Edward Katz [elseek@msn.com]

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:41 PM

To: CouncilMail

Council Chairman Dr. Ball and Council Members:

This coming Tuesday, January 19, the Howard County Council will hear public comment and testimony concerning the elimination of the storm water fee as defined in CB 52-2015 and its associated resolutions, CR 181-2015 and CR 182-2015.

Recently, the Howard County Chamber Board of Directors voted unanimously to support CB-52-2015.

CB 52-2015 Does Not: Reduce the commitment to meeting the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements of the US Clean Water Act, which describes the value of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards. Alternatively, TMDL is an allocation of that water pollutant deemed acceptable to the subject receiving waters.

CB 52-2015 Does: 1) Create more equitable **funding sources** for this important program; 2) Remove the convoluted measuring and tracking of commercial and agricultural property as well as the disproportionate burden to commercial property; and 3) Allow for a significant reallocation of funds from supporting staff positions to use of funds to mitigate the impacts in older developments without the modern storm water.

I am asking that the Howard County Council do the same as the Chamber of Commerce by supporting CB 52-2015.

Respectfully,

Edward Katz
Columbia MD 21045

Please Vote "NO" on CB52-2015

Dave Dammen [pdammen38@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 12:33 PM

To: CouncilMail

I am writing to you to urge you to vote "NO" on CB52-2015. Removing the polluted runoff fee is neither fiscally nor environmentally responsible and above all else, the polluted runoff fee is needed to continue progress on clean water in Howard County.

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Please vote NO on CB52-2015. The fee must stay in place for the sake of clean water and quality of life in Howard County.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate a response to my request.

Dave Dammen
9541 Angelina Cir.
Columbia, MD 21045

Eliminate Stormwater Fee

Diana Thorp [dithorp@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2016 11:02 AM

To: CouncilMail

Good Morning,

I would like to thank you for helping to eliminate the stormwater fee. It is an unfair tax, that should have never been levied in the first place. Thanks for doing what's right for your constituents.

Sincerely,
Diana Thorp

Stormwater Fee

Gary M [garywm123@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 7:37 PM**To:** CouncilMail

I installed a rain barrel and rocks at the bottom of my driveway about 11 years ago. When I received my first tax bill, I was informed that I could get a rebate because I had done what was needed to avert rainwater leaving my property. I sent pictures and explanations to Howard County officials. They told me that if I didn't have receipts then I couldn't get a rebate. The barrel was 11 years old and the rocks were free so I don't have receipts. Why am I still paying the tax?

Gary Magno
Elkridge

Vote NO on CB52-2015

Drew Roth [mrdrew@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 7:07 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 understand that this bill does not affect expenditure of money for watershed protection, it only changes who is paying for it. Specifically, the bill will no longer be paid by those who create the need for watershed protection and remediation, and instead the bill will be paid by everyone, and furthermore, the county will issue bonds so the bill can be paid by everyone later.

I am appalled by this proposal, and it think it makes a mockery of the traditional conservative value that one should take responsibility for ones own actions.

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

Thank you.

Drew Roth
6117 Lawyers Hill Rd
Elkridge, MD 21075

I support CB52-2015

Bob Henig [Bob.Henig@bobsbmw.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 3:43 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear Howard County Council,

I think the existing system that was shoved down business and homeowners throats was very inequitable. Please vote to change this immediately and give high consideration to either refunding the fees paid by business owner and citizens or crediting our future tax bills until such time as an equitable plan is presented, voted on and embraced by the business owners and residential property owners of this county.

Sincerely,

Bob@Bob's

Bob Henig

Owner, Rider, Enthusiast

Ride safe, ride often, dress to ride and practice your skills!

Bob's BMW Motorcycles

10720 Guilford Road

Jessup, MD 20794

301-497-8949 x218

www.bobsbmw.com

Vote NO on CB52-2015

Dan Finkelstein [danf879@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 3:32 PM

To: CouncilMail

Dear County Executive Kittleman and Howard County Council:

While it's opponents call it the "rain tax", which is a nice bit of clever politics, the Watershed Protection and Restoration fee is essential for clean water in Howard County.

I understand that CB52-2015 was recently introduced to repeal this fee. I'm deeply concerned that removing the fee would undermine our county's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program.

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.

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.

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.

Dan Finkelstein
8521 Trail View Dr
Ellicott City, MD 21043

CALL TO ACTION - Support Howard County Stormwater Fee Elimination

Howard County Chamber of Commerce [communications@howardchamber.ccsend.com] on behalf of Howard County Chamber of Commerce [communications@howardchamber.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 11:04 AM

To: Sayers, Margery

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Howard County Chamber of Commerce **Legislative Alert**

Support Howard County Stormwater Fee Elimination

On Tuesday, January 19, the Howard County Council will hear public comment and testimony concerning the elimination of the stormwater fee as defined in [CB 52-2015](#) and its associated resolutions, [CR 181-2015](#) and [CR 182-2015](#). Just recently, the Howard County Chamber Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this legislation for reasons outlined in the accompanying letter. We now are asking that you do the same by **contacting your County Council members** and requesting they support CB52-2015, and/or by [attending the meeting](#) and letting your voice be heard.

*What CB 52-2015 Does **NOT** Do:*

Does not reduce the commitment to meeting the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements of the **U.S. Clean Water Act**, which describes the value of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards. Alternatively, TMDL is an allocation of that water pollutant deemed acceptable to the subject receiving waters.

What CB 52-2015 Does:

- Creates more equitable **funding sources** for this important program;
- Removes the convoluted measuring and tracking of commercial and agricultural property as well as the disproportionate burden to commercial property;
- Allows for a significant reallocation of funds from supporting staff positions to use of funds to mitigate the impacts in older developments without the modern storm water management provided today.



Howard County Chamber of Commerce
5560 Sterrett Place, Columbia, Maryland 21044
www.howardchamber.com

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Try it FREE today.

Howard County Chamber of Commerce | 5560 Sterrett Place | Suite 105 | Columbia | MD | 21044

CB 52=2015

Bev Franks [bevfranks1@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 5:01 PM

To: CouncilMail

Please support CB 52 - 2015 Howard County Storm water Fee elimination

Thank you

Beverly L. Franks

Storm water Fee

Bob Wicks ell [67gto4me@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 4:34 PM

To: CouncilMail

Howard County Council,

As we are all being taxed into the poor house, please support the elimination of this fee as it adds burden unnecessarily to fixed income people by myself.

Regards, Bob Wicksell

Vote NO on CB52-2015

Susan Mangan [sue@mangan.info]

Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 5:47 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.

Susan Mangan

Columbia, MD 21046

CB 52-2015 - Howard County Chamber

Leonardo McClarty [lmcclarty@howardchamber.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 3:46 PM

To: CouncilMail

Attachments: Stormwater Fee_County Cou~1.docx (146 KB)

County Councilmembers:

Please find attached a letter from the Howard County Chamber stating our support for CB 52-2015 and the accompanying resolutions.

Thanks

Leonardo McClarty

President/CEO



5560 Sterrett Place – Ste. 105, Columbia, MD 21044

P: 410-730-4111 x. 107 / E: lmcclarty@howardchamber.com / @lmcclarty34

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce advances the growth and success of the business community by: *Serving as the voice of business; Providing information and resources; and Facilitating connections*



January 13, 2016

The Honorable Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council Chair
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Councilmember Ball:

On behalf of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, I write to you in support of CB 52-2015 and its associated resolutions, CR 181-2015 and CR 182-2015. For the past four years, the Howard County Chamber has diligently followed and participated in the debate concerning stormwater management and the mandate assigned to local governments in their implementation of the Clean Water Act. Like you, the Howard County Chamber is concerned about the future of the Chesapeake Bay and the environmental impacts that stem from storm water runoff. However, we have always been troubled by the outcomes of the Stormwater Remediation Fee established by House Bill 987 in 2012 which subsequently led to the local passage of Council Resolution No. 88-2013 that adopted schedules for various charges related to the fee. The passage of SB 863 during the 2015 Maryland General Assembly now affords local governments the option of how they will pay for stormwater management. This latest action has led to the introduction of Council Bill No. 52-2015, which would end the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee, Credit Program, Assistance Program and Reimbursements Schedule by Fiscal Year 2018.

It was always presumed that the implementation of CR 88-2013 would be proportionally spread among the County's residential, commercial, and agricultural users. Yet, since its inception, commercial enterprises have borne the brunt of this fee assessment. The current fee assessment places a disproportionately greater burden on employers, and particularly small businesses. Moreover, this fee places Howard County at a competitive disadvantage when compared to our neighbors. Neither Frederick, Carroll, Harford nor Baltimore Counties have a stormwater fee. In the high stakes game of economic development and business recruitment and retention, exorbitant fees or high tax rates can be the determining factor of whether a business locates, expands, or even remains in our county.

Equity and competitiveness aside, the Chamber also supports this legislation because in its elimination of stormwater fees, it neither alleviates nor minimizes our obligation to



meet the Clean Water mandate. The passage of CB 52-2015 will enable the County to protect the Chesapeake Bay, yet not disproportionately burden county employers and small business enterprises.

The Chamber appreciates your attention and consideration of our position. As always, we are available to discuss in further detail. I can be reached at 410-730-4111.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonardo McClarty". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Leonardo McClarty
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Howard County Council
Howard County Board of Directors

Watershed Protection & Restoration Fee

Elaine Pardoe [em.pardoe@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2016 10:59 AM

To: Terrasa, Jen

Cc: Kittleman, Allan; CouncilMail

Hello Jen,

I have a problem with the label "rain tax" and its implication that rain and stormwater are the same thing. Rain has been here since before we were, but stormwater was created only after humans removed the vegetation from much of the earth. More and more of our rain then became stormwater, surging over our dirty paved and tiled surfaces and rushing unchecked into our natural bodies of water instead of being purified and slowed by vegetation and soaking gradually into the earth before finding its way into our waterways.

That is true, no matter how we pay for our actions.

I am writing to ask you to vote to continue the separate funding source for stormwater remediation, for the following reasons.

- * It will be more likely that funds remain dedicated to this one purpose and thus be used most effectively.
- * It can be used to teach every taxpayer about stormwater control, its necessity for a healthy environment, and our individual capacity and obligation to be part of the solution instead of the problem. Information also could be included with each bill that tells the taxpayer how actions to improve stormwater control on one's property can be eligible for remuneration, and what to do if the amount of the fee is felt to be unfair.

How will these two objectives be met if the fee is discontinued and funds to meet its goals are in a black hole in the county budget? If we kowtow to demagogues who sneer "rain tax," our citizens will have been denied the chance to be proud to help make our county a safer and more beautiful place to live.

As always, Jen, thank you for listening.

Elaine Pardoe

Vote NO on CB52-2015

John de Leon [deleonjo12@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 6:59 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.

John de Leon
6521 Smokehouse Court
Columbia, MD 21045