

17 July 2017

Subject: CB60-2017 Mulching

Good evening. My name is Stu Kohn and I reside at 8709 Yellow Bird Court, Laurel, Md. 20723. I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. I was a member of the Task Force where we met 24 times and unfortunately we have nothing to show three years later. The fact is that the Maryland Department of the Environment which is obviously a major player refused to appear in any of our meetings was atrocious. The former DPZ Director asked them to participate, but they refused. You have heard and will here tonight the overwhelming and compelling concerns regarding Health and Safety issues from residents – your constituents. We only hope you will take more seriously these concerns as compared to the Planning Board when we met with them on 25 May. They completely ignored the volume of material presented. Their sole goal was to make a decision that same night regardless of the volume of evidence before them. They just did not care about the concerns of Howard County citizens. If nothing else they should have continued the case so they could analyze the facts before any decision was made.

When you take a look at the Power Point presentation last Monday to the Council I refer you to the last slide. It consists of recommendations to conduct studies in various areas. The question is -- if one has to conduct studies then there are obvious concerns which need to be rectified before thinking about passing such a Bill without amendments. The slide states the following:

- Study additional road access criteria by road type to further limit truck traffic.
- Study need for specific emergency declaration in zoning regulations.
- Study IRS tax implications on ALLP properties based on commercial activities.
- Study establishing ALLP cumulative totals for composting and NWWR in association with tree farms.
- Determine need for Christmas tree farms as part of ALLP uses.
- Addition of MALPF properties to ZRA.
- Explore need for Tier 2 Large facilities.

So, nothing should happen until at a minimum the aforementioned studies are completed.

I was also a member of the APFO Task Force. On three different occasions, Fire Chief John Butler appeared at our meetings. This was because he wanted to voice his concerns regarding the Cisterns in western Howard County being able to handle any potential disaster.

We concerned citizens are in no way anti-farmer. What we are is anti-having someone or a corporation taking advantage of a situation that if the “T” isn’t dotted and the “T” not crossed could very well be detrimental to us all. You simply cannot allow this to happen to if you care

about the health and safety of your constituents. So please review all the facts before you as the future depends on your sound judgement.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President