

Date: 16 July 2018

Subject: CB56-2018 – HCCA Testimony for Ellicott City

My name is Stu Kohn and I am the President of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA testifying on their behalf and we are all in favor of this Bill.

We by all means appreciate the efforts of Councilman Weinstein who tried his best to do something positive in an attempt to mitigate the Ellicott City disasters. Councilman Weinstein all one can do is try and you certainly did this now and in September 2016. Jacqueline Kennedy is quoted as saying, “One man can make a difference and every man should try.” To this end it looks like you have succeeded by having your colleagues join you almost two years later. This is a plus and you should be able to hold your head up high. There is another saying we believe is very appropriate by John Kennedy when he stated, “Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.”

On September 19, 2016 our Treasurer, JD Smith testified for HCCA in favor of CB 65 regarding the same subject. We present you with this testimony for your reading pleasure. We stated back then and still feel the same way this bill, should apply to the entire county. The water in the Tiber-Hudson watershed is contained within the larger Patapsco watershed covering portions of Baltimore City and Carroll County, with the largest portions being in Howard, Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties. To look at Tiber-Hudson alone is short sighted. A moratorium on permitting and inspection should be issued for the entire county.

Now we have some specific questions relating to the contents of CB56-2018 as follows:

Refer to Page 3, Lines 11, 16, and 21 – Regarding the Effective Date our suggestion is that it needs to extend until such time when the report is completed. It needs to go well beyond this date until ALL analysis has been fully satisfied by the experts and the public has had a chance to comment by conducting public forums to discuss the results to suggest any potential further improvements. All the criteria as stated on Page 4, Lines 3 thru 28 shall be accomplished and are pertinent to establishing the “Effective Date.” The “Effective Date” shall not go into effect until such time. Please consider adding this clause to Page 7 of the Bill Lines 8 thru 13.

Refer to Page 6, Lines 16 thru 19 – It states, “That DPZ under the Development Review Process, filed on or before the “Effective Date” of this Act may proceed but shall not be considered for plan approval by DPZ until the expiration of this Act.” The question is when is the expiration of this Act? We are curious under this proposed Bill how many projects will be affected?

Refer to Page 7, Lines 1 thru 3 – Do you have any reason why you might think this Act will be declared unconstitutional or illegal?

Refer to Page 7, Lines 5 thru 6 – Why do you think there is a possibility of a conflict?

We recommend rather than use the moratorium to study the issue in the Tiber-Hudson, use it to develop a comprehensive watershed plan for the entire county.

Thank You and we want to reiterate Councilman Jon Weinstein's monumental effort.

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President