



Date: 20 September 2021

Subject: **HCCA Testimony on CB64-2021 Forrest Conservation**

My name is Alan Schneider. My address is Clarksville, Md. I speak for Howard County Citizens Association against passage of CB 64 and requests that it be tabled for further consideration and testimony on a proposed amendment.

We applaud efforts to protect our forests and specimen trees. However, there are major problems with CB 64 which warrant strong opposition. CB 64 is in effect a “Show Bill”. In essence the proposed bill is meaningless, ineffective, and virtually useless. A late filed amendment has been proposed. HCCA and others have had inadequate time to fully evaluate and prepare testimony on the Bill with a late filed amendment.

Attached is a map of the State’s Targeted Ecological Areas which is one of several factors which should be included in any legislation for Forest Conservation improvement.

HCCA’s concerns include but are not limited to:

1. Lack of resources and staffing to adequately protect Howard County’s forests.
2. Lack of standing for citizens to take immediate protective action.
3. Noncompliance.
4. Lack of enforcement.
5. Impending perils of climate change.
6. It is far less costly to protect against damage, rather than to repair the damage later.
7. Statements by DPZ officials that “if a project meets minimum existing code requirements then DPZ must approve the proposal”.

HCCA greatly appreciates your consideration of its request to table this bill to permit time for submission of written testimony.

Sincerely,

Alan Schneider
HCCA Board of Director