



# HCCA

**Howard County Citizens Association**

*Since 1961... The Voice of the People of Howard County*

## **Testimony in support of CB78 and CB79-2021**

October 18, 2021

Susan Garber, North Laurel/Savage testifying

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA, and the Savage Community Association wish to congratulate and thank Councilwoman Liz Walsh for her tireless, continuous efforts to bring about positive outcomes through further strengthening of our Forest Conservation regulations. **Bill numbers may change.....** but **our** commitment to testifying in **support of her proposed actions remains unchanged.....** because like her, we embrace the critical importance of our natural environment.

We won't waste our breath or your time repeating our testimony from CB-56 and CB 57-2021. You can watch it on tape. But we do ask that you use the time we've just saved you to hold thoughtful discussions at work sessions and to at least match **our** time researching the fine points of the legislation with an open mind. Please take the time to get all of your questions answered so that you can better see the wisdom in taking the steps proposed. Then take the time to re-examine your loyalties: are they to your constituents or your backers?

We can only hope that all council members will see the Forest AND the (Specimen) Trees. Demonstrate through your support of these bills that this entire governing body genuinely cares about the protection of our environment --and hence our lives, as well as that of our children and grandchildren.

Please begin now, even before the new General Plan comes before you, to prioritize asking 'How much forest cover and open space do we need for a quality and healthful existence, free from the ravages of climate change?' rather than 'How many additional housing units do we think we need?'

If Stu Kohn, president of HCCA was delivering this testimony he would undoubtedly include a relevant thought-provoking quote from a notable and wise historical or political figure. Tonight I want to leave you thinking about a quote from a famous **builder**. If you haven't had children or grandchildren in your life in the last 2 decades you may not be familiar with him. I'm referring to '*Bob the Builder*'. (Not Bob Villa) Day after day, thru 20 TV seasons (185 episodes) Bob and his stop motion animated **pals** worked **together to solve problems** and to **get things done with a positive attitude**. So to any who may throw up roadblocks or readily make excuses for failing to legislate and achieve the highest level of forest retention and conservation in Howard County, I offer the signature words of Bob the Builder: "Can we do it? Yes we can?"

Vote YES on CB 78 and 79.