



December 28, 2021

Subject: CB78-2021 In No Way Should Be Vetoed

Dear Council Members,

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA testified on CB78-2021 see https://howardcountyhcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/HCCA-Testimony_CB78-79-2021-Forest_Conservation.pdf on October 18, 2021. We would hope that in no way those of you who voted in Favor would now renege on the Bill by voting in Favor of the County Executive's veto. When HCCA testified the following was stated. "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." If you really believe in protecting the environment, then you will not hesitate to continue showing all your constituents that your votes are meaningful and does indeed matter.

The County Executive in his letter dated 14 December 2021 refer to <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=12873> – "Related Documents" – "Veto Letter" states, "I believe that CB78 is completely unrelated to objective of preventing the removal of priority retention trees prior to the development process, arbitrary and inconsistent with the intent of the Forest Conservation Act and creates a significant administrative burden that was not adequately contemplated by the County Council." This statement is unfortunately stating that the four Council Members who voted in FAVOR of CB78-2021 did not know what you were doing. We don't believe this is true, especially considering all the various Bills that have been introduced regarding Forrest Conservation.

We realize the proposed Veto by the County Executive concerning CB78-2021 will be heard. HCCA is simply saying we would like the Council to vote "YES" to override the Veto.

Stu Kohn

HCCA President