December 4th 2023

## Testimony for CB40-2023

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA, supports this act because the county needs to be actively protecting our trees in as many ways as possible.

Trees are our number one resource for soaking up the rain, slowing soil erosion, saving energy, lowering temperatures, reducing wind speed, reducing noise, creating and protecting wildlife and plant diversity, beautifying our environment, cleaning the air and providing oxygen.

Recently, Columbia Association's Eric Walker (Conservation Landscape Specialist) shared data that showed there has been tree canopy loss over the last few years. This is not acceptable and it further emphasizes why the HCCA supports bills like this that protect the environment.

Brian England. Board Director. Howard County Citizens Association.