Date: 25 April 2025

Subject: HCCA in Favor of CB29-2025

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA supports CB29-2025 and appreciates Councilmember Liz Walsh's introduction and hopes all councilmembers will vote in Favor.

This Bill seeks to remove an exemption from the disallowance of waivers of floodplain, wetland, stream, forest conservation, or steep slope regulations in the Tiber Branch Watershed. Specifically, no longer allowing waivers that are noted as creating 10% net higher flood control in the area, including off-site projects. Too frequently, off-site project effects on regulations can lead to localized problems when measuring flood management efforts. We should stick to some basic minimal regulations and not allow waivers, especially in a problematic area. The implementation of the current waivers involves decisions that should have stricter oversight and expert review to reach a decision of actual net improvements.

Thank You for your consideration.

Stu Kohn HCCA President