

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Jolene Ivey
Chair, Prince George's County Council
Wayne K Curry Administration Building
1301 McCormick Drive
Largo, MD 20774

RE: Transmittal of Proposed Environmental Legislation

Dear Chair Ivey:

Enclosed is a package of draft legislation to implement the required program changes outlined in SB 526/ HB 723-2023 as approved by the Governor on May 8, 2023.

Staff provided a briefing to the Planning Board on June 29, 2023, and briefings to the Council's Committee of the Whole on September 12, 2023 and again on February 6, 2024. Staff worked with other County Agencies as well as the Maryland Building Industry Association on proposed program changes in response to the State Bill.

Public outreach was initiated in June 2023, and Environmental Planning Staff participated in several community events to spread awareness of this legislative effort. Staff participated in several National Night Out events, the Placemaking Downtown Largo Festival, and the County Fair to name a few. Public outreach culminated in a virtual public meeting held February 29, 2024.

The package contains updates to a total of three subtitles, with the primary focus on Subtitle 25, Division 2: The Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance; Subtitle 25, Division 3: The Tree Canopy Cover Ordinance; and Subtitle 24: the Subdivision Ordinance. These updates are centered on the Legislature's revisions to the Forest Conservation Act which outlined the requirement for local jurisdictions to revise their programs to meet specific requirements. The overarching goals of the changes include no net loss of forest (and even to demonstrate gain), simplifying the clearing replacement calculations, and making the process more transparent to the public. The revised drafts are provided as attachments.

As always, staff is available to answer questions on these topics and the proposed revisions. Please feel free to contact Megan Reiser, Planner IV, Environmental Planning Section, at 301-952-3650 or by e-mail at megan.reiser@ppd.mncppc.org.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Shapiro
Chair



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Attachments

- c: Prince George's County Council Members
 - Lakisha Hull, Planning Director
 - Jennifer Jenkins, Council Administrator
 - Donna Brown, Clerk of the Council
 - J. Kenneth Battle, Jr., Director, Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee
 - Katina Shoulars, Division Chief, Countywide Planning Division
 - Tom Burke, Supervisor, Environmental Planning Section
 - Megan Reiser, Master Planner, Environmental Planning Section