

Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: Bill 63-2019, Buffers for Major Subdivisions on Scenic Roads

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to protect the county's outstanding environmental assets to preserve and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by residents.

We strongly support Bill 63-2019 to preserve Howard County's remaining Scenic Roads and we thank you for revisiting this matter.

Increasing the buffer area between Scenic Roads and major subdivisions, requiring removal of invasive species from the buffer area, and requiring the buffer area to be replanted or enhanced with native species of the same community type (forest, wetlands, pasture, meadow) is critical to maintaining community character and will also provide a variety of environmental benefits.

Additionally, the provisions in the bill requiring the plan submittal to include a detailed visual assessment depicting existing conditions and changes associated with development will ensure that the Planning Board and the community have the information necessary to properly assess the impacts of the proposed development.

Finally, to maintain the existing character of Scenic Roads we support limiting road improvements to those necessary for public safety as described in the bill.

We thank you for your kind consideration of our comments and we ask that you vote in favor of Bill 63-2019.

*Audubon MD-DC • Audubon Society of Central Maryland • Bicycling Advocates of Howard County • Clean Water Action
Coalition for Smarter Growth • Community Ecology Institute • Earth Forum of Howard County • HARP
Howard County Citizens Association • Howard County Conservancy • Howard County Sierra Club • Maryland Conservation Council
Maryland League of Conservation Voters • Maryland Ornithological Society • Patapsco Heritage Greenway
Preservation Maryland • Safe Skies Maryland • Savage Community Association • The People's Voice • Transition Howard County*

Sincerely,

Audubon Maryland-DC
David Curson
Director of Bird Conservation

Howard County Sierra Club
Carolyn Parsa
Chair

Audubon Society of Central Maryland
Morgan Lakey
President

Maryland Conservation Council
Paulette Hammond
President

Bicycling Advocates of Howard County
Jack Guarneri
President

Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Kim Coble
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Clean Water Action
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Safe Skies Maryland
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Legislative Director

Howard County Citizens Association
Stu Kohn
President

Savage Community Association
Susan Garber
Board Chair

The People's Voice, LLC
Lisa M. Markovitz
President

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive