

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.

Sincerely,

Audubon Maryland-DC

David Curson

Director of Bird Conservation

Audubon Society of Central Maryland

Morgan Lakey

President

Bicycling Advocates of Howard County

Jack Guarneri

President

Clean Water Action

Emily Ranson

Maryland Program Coordinator

Coalition for Smarter Growth

Stewart Schwartz

Executive Director

Community Ecology Institute

Chiara D'Amore, Ph.D.

President

Howard County Citizens Association

Stu Kohn

President

Howard County Sierra Club

Carolyn Parsa

Chair

Maryland Conservation Council

Paulette Hammond

President

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Kim Coble

Executive Director

Maryland Ornithological Society

Kurt R. Schwarz

Conservation Chair

Preservation Maryland

Kimberly Golden Brandt

Director of Smart Growth Maryland

Safe Skies Maryland

Mark Southerland, Ph.D.

Legislative Director

Savage Community Association

Susan Garber

Board Chair

The People's Voice, LLC

Lisa M. Markovitz

President

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive