

**Support for HB 1284**  
**Environment and Transportation Committee**

Dear Delegates Terrasa, Lehman, and Ruth:

As a concerned citizen of Maryland, I am writing to express my support for the Wetlands and Waterways Program - Stream Restoration Projects bill. I first learned about the terrible damage to waterways in Howard County during my Environmental Science G/T Seminar at Burleigh Manor Middle School, and I think it's upsetting.

From research, I have learned that stream restoration projects aren't what they seem. They claim to restore streams, but while doing so, they cut down trees, harming the environment. These projects cut down mature trees and replace them with immature trees that do not have the same benefits as the mature trees. An article in the *Baltimore Banner* states "the loss of mature trees can cause a disastrous chain reaction for aquatic wildlife: Less tree cover means more sunlight hits the water, increasing stream temperatures which, when combined with excess nutrients, create algae blooms that reduce oxygen levels." This damages the balance of the ecosystem which is why mature trees should not be cut down. In an attempt to prevent erosion, removing mature trees eliminates crucial life in the environment. Additionally, in a report about Wilde Lake here in Howard County, I learned that streams that have gone through "restoration" are still untreated. And according to the *Bay Journal*, stream restorations do more harm than good and that removing trees to save streams can "worsen water quality" and the stream restorations do "little to boost the waterway's ecological health." These stream restoration projects haven't been proven to help the streams, and are in fact harmful.

I am pleased that HB 1284 calls for stream restoration projects to have specific fees depending on the amount of trees they cut down. I like how the money will produce some funding for MDE and minimize tree removal. The bill requires clear goals and plans to help the water quality, while ensuring the least amount of trees possible are removed. Trees are important to the environment because they capture and store approximately 48 pounds of carbon. To store carbon, they need to mature which approximately takes 10 to 40 years. By the time the stream restoration trees reach maturity, I'll be around 20 to 50 years old. My generation cannot afford to wait for these young trees to grow. We need mature trees to capture carbon *now*.

On behalf of the children of Maryland, who will inherit the environment you leave for us, I support HB 1284.

Signed,  
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