



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

HB 1511 – Forest Conservation Act – Modifications

DATE: March 26, 2024
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

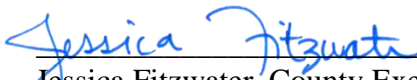
As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give HB 1511 – Forest Conservation Act – Modifications a favorable report.

This bill will extend the deadlines of approval for the Department of Natural Resources and local jurisdictions regarding local forest conservation plans.

Last year, the General Assembly passed legislation that allowed for local jurisdictions to create their own Forest Resource Conservation programs. This gave local governments the opportunity to implement plans specific to the needs of their counties. DNR has been unable to approve these plans and provide guidance in the timeline outlined in last year’s legislation.

HB 1511 will extend the Department of Natural Resources approval deadline from 2024 to 2026. This will allow for the Department to devise meaningful guidance and thoroughly review plans created by local jurisdictions. Without this legislation, local governments are placed in a precarious situation that is no fault of their own. HB 1511 is crucial to ensuring that all counties have the ability to create forest resource conservation plans that suit their unique needs.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1511. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD