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**KATE SCHERR-ADAMS**  
President

February 16, 2022

**ANITA BRYANT**  
Vice President

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**CYNDI MURRAY**  
Secretary

Dear Chairman Paul G. Pinsky, Vice-Chairwoman Cheryl C. Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**AMANDA CUNNINGHAM**  
Treasurer

**Support for SB0492 – Environment - Discharge Permits – Inspection and Administrative Continuations**

Directors

**TAMI BUTLER**  
**KEVIN CLEARY**  
**LAURA GILLIS**  
**BARBARA JACKSON**  
**SCOTT JOHNSON**  
**BESS KELLER**  
**CHARLES MINOR**

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Herring Run Parks, Inc., a non-profit that works to preserve, protect, restore, and promote Herring Run Park and its stream valley for the benefit of present and future generations.

Staff

**PATRICIA DOWD**

The current system which depends on self-reporting of discharge violations, and the current staffing of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), are not adequate to protect the Herring Run Watershed and the people who enjoy its waters.

Our position is based on years of experience with the property at 4300 Shannon Drive in Baltimore that we call "Mt. Dirt". It operates under Industrial Planned Development Ordinance # 99-415, passed in 1999, that allows for a limited rock crushing operation, no more than four times a year, 15 days at a time, with tarpaulin-covered piles no more than 10 feet high. Instead, it has operated as a year-round illegal land fill that now towers over 120 feet above Herring Run Park which runs along its border.

For years the residents of nearby Armistead Gardens have been showered with dust blown off of this site with any strong wind. We have witnessed rockslides from Mt. Dirt that have destroyed the protective silt skirt around the perimeter and clogged Armistead Run, a tributary to the Herring Run. We have also witnessed young people on warm days swimming in Herring Run, just downstream from Mt. Dirt.

4300 Shannon Drive is now subject to its third enforcement action (CJ-21-2692) with MDE since 2012. We hope that with passage of SB0492, the stronger fines and greater enforcement capacity will finally bring and keep Mt. Dirt into compliance.

Sincerely,

Kate Scherr-Adams  
President

Friends of Herring Run Parks Board of Directors

The Friends of Herring Run Parks, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.  
Donations to Friends of Herring Run Parks, Inc. are tax deductible as allowed by law