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February 20th, 2023

HB-612 Natural Resources – Licensed Tree Experts - Alterations

SPONSOR: Delegate Courtney Watson

POSITION: Favorable

Dear Delegate Courtney Watson,

I would like to share my personal and professional experience as the owner of a small tree trimming and removal company.

As a fully licensed and insured tree company, we have trouble bidding against non-licensed and non-employed people bidding tree work without proper licensing or liability and worker's compensation insurance. It's important because the more that it happens in the residential industry the more that they are going to start tapping into the commercial and municipality industries.

Consumers are not aware of the laws that are required to do tree work and Maryland and they also are not enforced and not treated the same as other construction industries and often the severity is a lot greater. There is a lack of supervision and enforcement. A lot of time these unlicensed tree workers do not have the best interest of the homeowners or the trees, they are just trying to make a quick buck. Unlicensed tree workers take away 30% of residential business from licensed and professional tree companies.

The current laws are very vague and hard to understand, especially when it comes to policing and reinforcing these regulations.

Because of this, I am in favor of House Bill 612.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Remines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles Remines
Sole Managing Member
Forest Valley Tree & Turf