

I am Dan Tootle and I am speaking in favor of HB 1449F.

I am a resident of the Round Bay community in Severna Park which is part of two watershed areas, the Magothy and Severn Rivers. For the past two years our community has been impacted by the planned development of two land plats within our community that involve the destructive development of two very steep slope lots, both well within the Anne Arundel County Critical Area, and within 1,000 ft of the Severn River. The two lots of concern have storm water drainage to both of the rivers.

Despite the obvious and well documented adverse impact that development of these two lots will have to the rivers, and to the adjacent community residents, Anne Arundel County, under litigious pressure from the developer, has allowed development to go forward, despite concerted effort on the part of community residents, the Magothy and Severn River Associations, by approving variances to existing county law governing protection for such property.

During the administrative hearing and subsequent Board of Appeals hearing, community residents and the Associations have found ourselves barred from effectively mitigating damage resulting from such development due to a lack of standing to the Appeals Board under existing interpretation (by Anne Arundel County administration) to have a voice in this matter.

Hopefully, the passage and adoption of HB 1449F, along with its cross-filed SB 1045 bill will establish such standing that will provide a remedy to unsustainable and unfair situations such as encountered for the Mt. Misery property development for community residents and environmental protection organizations.

The current lack of standing situation that prevails in such matters now needs to be corrected by passage of HB 1449F in order to provide a balance of power to the prevailing and overriding property ownership rights that our county administration considers as dominant.