



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 290 – Natural Resources – Roadside Tree Removal Permit Notification Act

Education, Energy, and Environment Committee Hearing
1:00pm – February 11, 2025

2/7/25

To Chair Korman and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB290 – Natural Resources – Roadside Tree Removal Permit Notification Act - on behalf of ShoreRivers. ShoreRivers is a river protection group on Maryland's Eastern Shore with 2,500 members. Our mission is to protect and restore our Eastern Shore waterways through science-based advocacy, restoration, education, and engagement.

There is a lack of native tree canopy within municipalities and developed areas of the Eastern Shore. Environmental organizations like ShoreRivers view established trees as a key component in our efforts reduce stormwater runoff, sequester carbon and cool pavement and other impermeable surfaces. As a riverkeeper, I am often contacted by concerned citizens when mature and established trees are cut down in their neighborhoods or adjacent to their property. These trees are often cut for maintenance purposes, and our residents share they have had no warning before the maintenance occurs.

Mature trees provide a myriad of benefits including carbon sequestration, pavement cooling, and air filtration, as well as improving property values and habitat for pollinators and song birds. Property owners should be aware when trees are slated for removal or extreme maintenance. For this reason and the examples described above, ShoreRivers recommends the committee give a favorable report to Senate Bill 290.

Sincerely,
Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper on behalf of:

ShoreRivers

Isabel Hardesty, Executive Director

Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper

Ben Ford, Miles Wye Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher, Sassafras Riverkeeper