



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: SB 0290 (HB 0362) Natural Resources – Roadside Tree Removal Permit Notification Act

Position: Informational

Date: February 11, 2025

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear: Chair Brian Feldman,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“M-NCPPC” or “the Commission”) has not taken a position on this bill. However, staff has drafted an informational statement with suggested language that would exclude M-NCPPC, along with similar entities, as exempted from the notification requirement.

What this Bill Does. This bill requires an applicant for a roadside tree removal permit to provide certain notice to certain persons in a certain manner; and generally relating to roadside tree removal permits. **It is our understanding that the sponsors intend to introduce an amendment that will exclude certain entities from the notification requirements.**

Hardship from the Extensive Notification Process. As large landowners in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, acting in the public interest, there are occasions where M-NCPPC must remove roadside trees. The hardship from the extensive notification process proposed would be similar for us as for Counties and sanitary commissions, in that this addition of certified mail notification could both delay necessary activities and cause fiscal impacts. These activities generally already include outreach via other mechanisms and thus additional outreach for this specific act would be excessive. M-NCPPC should be excluded alongside the Counties and sanitary commissions.

- **Proposed Language.** *The Notice Requirement in Subsection (C) of this section does not apply to: Local Governments, to include sanitary commissions and water and sewer authorities; M-NCPPC or Bi-County agencies public utilities; or applicants requesting to renew blanket permits.*