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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, members of EEE.

As this Committee knows, trees provide many benefits. They help cool our communities, clean our air, provide a habitat for our wildlife, and much more. When mature trees – some of which have been standing for decades -- are removed from our neighborhoods without notice, the destruction can provoke feelings of shock, anger, and concerns about future tree loss. That is exactly what happened last summer to a group of my constituents who then reached out to their state legislators.

SB 290 seeks to improve transparency and accountability in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) roadside tree permit process.

What this bill does:

- Amends Section 5-406 of the Natural Resources Article to introduce an adjacent landowner notification requirement for certain roadside tree permit applications
- Requires any applicant for a DNR Roadside Tree Permit, unless exempt (see draft amendment attached), to notify all adjacent landowners or a relevant common community governing body by certified mail providing a copy of the application or information about how to access it electronically
- Respects the existing application process and builds in an additional step to enhance community awareness

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 290.