



Senate Bill 290

Natural Resources – Roadside Tree Removal Permit Notification Act

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: February 11, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko and Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 290 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill requires certain applicants of a roadside tree removal permit from the Department of Natural Resources to follow certain neighborhood notification requirements. MACo seeks amendments to align the bill with the sponsor's intent.

As drafted, SB 290 would require counties to comply with both county level notification requirements and new conflicting state level notification requirements for tree removal in certain circumstances. After speaking with the bill sponsors, it is not their intent to include county governments, as counties already comply with robust community input requirements for tree removals.

MACo offers the following amendment to clarify the intent of the sponsor,

On page 2, after line 25, insert:

"(D) THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- (1) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS;**
- (2) PUBLIC UTILITIES;**
- (3) APPLICANTS REQUESTING TO RENEW BLANKET PERMITS;**
- (4) WATER AND SEWER ENTITIES FORMED AS SANITARY COMMISSIONS; OR**
- (5) WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITIES".**

MACo thanks the sponsor for working with counties and partnering to better serve our mutual constituents. With this amendment, the legislation improves Maryland's tree removal procedures, but avoids unintended consequences. For this reason, MACo urges the Committees to give SB 290 a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**.