

March 24th 2025

To Maryland Senate Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment

Senate Bill 722 HB 1155 Department of the Environment

“Unfavorable” unless wording is changed to reflect my testimony below.

Definition of Ecological Restoration

When reading this bill it's easy to get lost in the technical jargon and without realizing it is missing the point.

Over a decade ago I was on a committee that oversaw the development of the “Columbia Watershed Plan” and later was chair of the Columbia Association Watershed Advisory Committee. I was fortunate to have fellow committee members who were skilled scientists, industry professionals, researchers and regulators. They would constantly remind the committee to focus on improving the environment.

To do this you have to understand what was there before development and emulate that. In most cases it was a forest so before addressing streams you need to do what a forest does.

Soak up rain
Retain rain
Slows the flow of rain.

Unfortunately this has been ignored in Maryland, I have watched all the so called stream restorations fail in Howard County because of they have ignored the upland watershed.

Please amend this bill to make sure that there is true “biological uplift” and that the watershed feeding Maryland streams is addressed.

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