



# ANACOSTIA WATERSHED COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

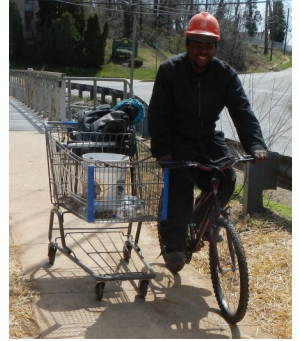
*Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries*

Attn: Environment and Transportation Committee  
Delegate Marc Korman, CHAIR  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 10, 2025

Re: **HB1527/SB0525 Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law -  
Video Evidence and Reward Program**

Submitted by: **Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee**  
Marian Dombroski, Vice Chair  
301 775 1191 mdombros@gmail.com



watershed steward

The Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) submits this letter requesting that the Environment and Transportation Committee votes favorably to advance this legislation. Effective Action to curtail illegal dumping is long overdue. We thank Delegate Roberts and her colleagues in the Senate for championing this legislation. In 1968, the Anacostia River was designated a state Scenic and Wild River. Currently the Anacostia is among the unfortunate rivers identified as impaired due to quantity of trash (303(d) listing). This led to the inclusion of a Trash TMDL in our MS4 Permit. This is shameful. This preventable pollution must stop. The Anacostia and its many tributaries are improving thanks to the work of countless stewards armed with effective legislation passed since 2012. Illegal dumping, however, is on the rise. It is literally a crime and will need effective action to make it stop.

Montgomery, Prince George’s County and the District of Columbia have jurisdiction over the Anacostia Watershed. Although they have programs aimed at elimination of illegal dumping, this problem is visibly increasing in my watershed - degrading communities, polluting our waterways, threatening our health, giving cover to nefarious activities. AWCAC is made up of community groups dedicated to the restoration of our river and it’s tributaries. Many of our members were picking up trash before the Clean Water Act was past—more than 50 years ago. Some of our largest events are stream and river clean-ups. Though are numbers are growing, we cannot keep up with the volume. In recent years we’ve had to tell volunteers to leave the bulk trash because it becomes hazardous waste and hosts for vermin in our waterways. Posting signs and raising fines are ineffective without enforcement. Our reports to agencies are not being answered. The proposed legislation will give regular citizens an opportunity to support overburdened agencies, protecting and improving our communities in the process. We need your support - please provide this important tool.

My community is held back and degraded by the proliferation of illegal dumping, most of which is carried out by people outside our community. Piles of broken furniture and bedding, car parts, and construction materials are the first thing people see when arriving in the once thriving Port Towns. As soon as we get a site cleared out, the criminals are back unloading their waste onto our street, into our waterways and woodlands - sometimes into our backyards. We see it happen right before our eyes. Confronting the offenders puts us in danger. This legislation would empower us to protect our communities and give us - ordinary people - the courage to take action to see that criminal activity is reported.

AWCAC is the community branch of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership, a program of the Council of Governments. Passage of this legislation is extremely important to us and will be a great step towards tackling the waste problems you and our other legislators are working hard to address. **We are counting on you to do all that you can to bring this important bill into law.** We will continue to work along side the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, the District Department of Energy and Environment and other agencies within the Anacostia Watershed. Trash pollution is not a fact of modern life. Other communities, other nations are not subjected to this blight. With your leadership, we can make our state a model for the region and for the nation.



