

Please support and vote in favor of HB1465. Although not perfect, it goes a long way to reigning in the problems inherent in the current system. As a former attorney at a public water and sewer agency, I have witnessed numerous stream “restorations” since many sewer assets are located at the lowest ground. None of them adequately protected the streams or encompassing habitat.

I have also walked various stream “restorations” approved and conducted pursuant to the Stormwater Management Act, and again, none have adequately protected the streams or surrounding habitat. In fact, the reverse has occurred with significant areas of forest cut down, huge boulders installed along stream edges and massive soil disruption. All of these measures are illogical; they do not address the source issue, are temporary and create ecological damage. This is in complete contravention of the purpose of the Act. All it does is enable entities to accumulate credits and sell them to developers so developers can bypass environment constraints.

HB1465 is a step in the right direction. It is astonishing that adequate, meaningful and complete notice to the affected community where the stream restoration will occur must be legislated but I appreciate the recognition of this deficiency and its inclusion in this bill. It is important that it requires that other methods of stream restoration and runoff mitigation be explored and analyzed properly before stream restoration is proposed. The furthestmost significant change in this bill, however, is inclusion that MDE prioritize the mitigation of runoff at the source rather than downstream where it will only be a duct tape solution at best and at worst a devastation to habitat and the environment. Finally!

I am not a developer, I do not own a construction company. I am an avid hiker who appreciates the tranquil, restorative effects of nature in a world that is increasingly chaotic. Please vote in favor of HB1465 for human’s and nature’s sake.

Claudia Koenig

4042 Larkspring Row Ellicott City Md. 21042