



Howard County Council

Liz Walsh

District 1

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

March 18, 2026

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1465 Stream and Floodplain Restoration Projects - Requirements and Limitations

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I write in support of HB 1465 and in strong agreement with the environmental advocates and researchers who have called for greater accountability in Maryland's stream restoration credit system.

In Howard County, we have seen the consequences of projects that rely heavily on large-scale, equipment-driven, tree-clearing stream "restoration" without addressing the upstream sources of stormwater runoff. Without first reducing the volume and velocity of runoff entering our streams, these "restoration" projects become extremely expensive ecosystem demolition that still leave our streambanks vulnerable to erosion and our communities vulnerable to flooding.

Requiring that restoration projects deliver measurable ecological benefits before receiving compliance credit is a commonsense accountability measure: responsible stormwater management, investment in upstream solutions, and accountability for projects funded with public dollars and counted toward our environmental obligations. This proposed outcome-based system would help ensure that our restoration efforts truly restore and improve the ecosystems and communities we seek to protect.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give HB 1465 a favorable vote in committee. Thank you for your consideration.

In service,

Councilwoman Liz Walsh
Howard County Council, District 1