



Date: December 8, 2016

To: Planning Commission

From: Annapolis Environmental Commission

Dear Planning Commissioners:

The Annapolis Environmental Commission supports O-38-16 Forest Conservation Reforestation

We are excited to see this legislation that will finally help Annapolis meet its tree canopy goal rather than watching the steady decline of trees in Annapolis. This legislation changes the replacement ratio for clearing trees above the threshold contained in the existing law to be at least 1 acre replaced for each one acre removed, as opposed to the original ratio of .25 acre to every 1 acre cleared.

The ordinance also ensures that appeals under the old Forest Conservation Act law go to the Building Board of Appeals and clarifies that the next level of appeal is to the Circuit Court, which corrects and important deficiency.

The AEC recommends including the City's long standing policy of using 20% instead of 15% for category 5, mixed use and planned unit development areas for the Conservation threshold.

We also believe that we should continue the city's current practice of making developers reforest on site. If there is no room on site to meet the reforestation requirements reforestation should take place within City limits in order for the City to receive credits to meet its requirements under our new and very expensive, Watershed Implementation Plan.

AEC Chairman
Paul Murphy