

Carol DeSoto

From: Bonnie Bick <bonniebick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 4:02 PM
To: Carol DeSoto
Subject: Charles County Forest Conservation Ordinance

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Please share this with the Charles County Commissioners, thank you, bonnie bick

RE: Forest Conservation Ordinance

Attention Charles County Commissioners,

Charles County is fortunate to be located just south of our Nation's Capital. We share the Potomac River, our Nations River, and Washington benefits from Western Charles County forests. Charles County forests are providing support lungs and clean air for the Washington Metropolitan Area. The Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary is the only NMS in the Chesapeake Bay system, and it is located on the Western Charles County shoreline, being supported by one of Maryland's best remaining large forests.

Charles County has been identified by MACO as a leading county in Maryland's effort to address Climate Change.

***The Reliance Authority, with the University of Maryland and funded by the EPA recognizes the importance of our watersheds in Charles County.

The Mattawoman Watershed is in the need of all of its remaining forests.

With this outstanding recognition of Charles Counties attention to addressing Climate, the Mattawomna Watershed Society requests the Charles County Commissioners to step up - defend your reputation - compete with Frederick and Annarundal for the county in Maryland that best understands the connection between climate adaption, forest protection, and a more livable future. The Mattawoman Watershed is in the need of all of its remaining forests

because the health of Mattawoman Creek is dependent on forests to provide a clean water supply for our valuable fish habit and nursery. Mattawomna Creek is at the tipping point for irreparable loss.

You, as elected decision-making officials at a very critical time have an obligation to protect and preserve our local waterways' clean water, our fisheries, and all of Charles Counties' watersheds. The choice you make in the Forest Conservation Ordinance will either support living resources and the health of the county's waters and the Chesapeake Bay or further threatened the living resources of the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Clear climate science directs maximum protection of our forests, the tool in Maryland Charles County Government can use to join the company with the best FCOs in Maryland in Frederick and Annarundell Counties. It isn't a competition, but Fredrick County and Ann Arundel County have set an FCO achievable bar, a goal for decision makers to achieve. FCO is a barometer of the county's understanding of the value of healthy forests for present and future generations.

*** https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/maryland-counties-confront-climate-change-costly-projects/2021/11/06/4195d772-3b24-11ec-a493-51b0252dea0c_story.html

***<https://www.charlescountymd.gov/Home/Components/News/News/3422/400>

***<https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/boards-commissions/resilience-authority>

sincerely,
Bonnie Bick
for the Mattawoman Watershed Society