







































































































































[Tame Coalition](#)

[MCP-Chair](#); [Anderson, Casey](#); [Verma, Partap](#); [Patterson, Tina](#); [Rubin, Carol](#); [Cichy, Gerald](#)

Strongest Possible Forest Law to Protect our Families' Health

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 9:07:07 AM

---

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Planning Board Members,

The TAME Coalition urges the Board to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the [Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition](#).

We need the *strongest possible* protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend Forest Conservation Law legislation to the County Council that:

1. Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
2. Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning *prior* to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
3. Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
4. Strengthens replanting requirements to *require* the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
5. Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
6. Tightens requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

The [MOCO Climate Action Plan](#) (Carbon Sequestration) speaks to the urgency that we must solve our climate crisis, use existing natural resources to do so, and plan for a climate resilient future.

Through TAME Coalition's ongoing participation in Montgomery County's Climate Action and Resilience Plan, County officials have been presented with a













April 26, 2022

Dear Planning Board Members,

My name is Catalina Salazar and I am a resident in Germantown, Montgomery County.

I urge you to recommend the strongest possible protections of our forests through updating the Forest Conservation Law based on recommendations from the Montgomery County Forest Coalition, found [here](#).

I moved here from California in 2018 to live among the trees and forests of Maryland. In 1997 after having grown up in Los Angeles, with limited access to trees and forests I started making yearly trips to the east coast for the beauty of the fall colors. I began to learn more about the deciduous forests here and all the ways they help humans, plants and animals survive and thrive.

As a Retreat leader and Educator I know that protecting forests is a proven, affordable, and common-sense solution to protect public health, defend the safety of the water we drink, protect clean air, combat climate change, and provide open space our communities can turn to for physical and mental well-being.

We need the ***strongest possible*** protections for our forests. Please put community care into practice by improving protections for our forests – both for communities now and for future generations.

I ask the Planning Board to recommend Forest Conservation Law legislation to the County Council that:

- Protects existing forest ecosystems. This should be the #1 priority.
- Requires Forest stand delineation to be evaluated & submitted to Planning *prior* to submitting any application plan for development of a site.
- Strengthens replanting ratios to 2:1 in all scenarios.
- Strengthens replanting requirements to *require* the planting of forest ecosystem, not just trees. When forest ecosystem is what's being removed, community members need assurances that whole forest ecosystem is also what will be replanted.
- Strengthens watershed considerations so that forest ecosystem replanting improves the water quality of our communities in specific watersheds, and to incentivize replanting within Montgomery County, not outside of our county.
- Tightens requirements around forest conservation easements as a prevention so they cannot be easily extinguished or relocated.

In closing, I ask you again to strengthen the bill to update the Forest Conservation Law (FCL) based on recommendations from the MoCo Forest Coalition. Forests are critical for public health, clean water, and climate solutions. Montgomery County communities need the ***strongest*** possible forest protection laws *now*. Protecting our families' health can't wait.

Sincerely,

Catalina Salazar

DaySpring Retreat Center

