

Item 6 - Correspondence

From: [Unger, Darian](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Subject: Sierra Club concern about curtailing public input with shorter time restrictions
Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 12:42:51 PM

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Dear Planning Board,

The Montgomery County Sierra Club writes in opposition to the proposal to require that public witnesses register with 24 hours, which restricts the rights and input of members of the public.

The public already has little time - typically only a few days - to digest staff reports and provide responsive testimony. Taking away another day reduces that time significantly.

Also, state law gives witnesses who testified in person or in writing before the Montgomery Planning Board standing to appeal decisions of the Board to circuit court. While rarely used, it is an important check on potential mistakes. Forcing public witnesses to register 24 hours earlier diminishes those appeal rights.

Thank you very much for considering our position,

-Darian Unger

Chair, Montgomery County Sierra Club

"Reality is an illusion, albeit a very persistent one."

Darian Unger, Ph.D.
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