



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

June 8, 2011

Mimi Brodsky Kress, Chair
Renewing Montgomery
4302 East West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Dear Ms. Kress:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding amendments to the County's Forest Conservation Law (FCL). I appreciate the interest of Renewing Montgomery in this issue.

I am committed to proposing amendments to the FCL that will provide greater protection for forests and trees while at the same time simplifying and streamlining the process for obtaining permits. I believe that the proposal prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is a reasonable approach for accomplishing both goals.

I understand that there are provisions in the DEP proposal that the constituency you represent does not support. Robert Kaufman of the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) conveyed a similar message. This is unfortunate, but not surprising since I believe that an effective FCL will provide all stakeholders with some of what they like, but not all. This is, of course, the nature of compromise and, in many cases, the hallmark of a good law.

Mr. Kaufman stated that the MNCBIA has been meeting with representatives of the environmental community to try to develop another alternative to the original bill offered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the amendments to that bill offered by Councilmember Elrich, and DEP's proposal. I am very willing to entertain other ideas on how to improve our forest and tree regulations, but given the extensive time and effort already devoted to this issue by all stakeholders, I requested that Mr. Kaufman provide me their joint proposal for modifying the FCL by July 1, 2011. I would make the same request of Renewing Montgomery. I urge you to contact Mr. Kaufman and explore the opportunity for working together to develop a consensus approach. I have copied Mr. Kaufman and Ms. Caren Madsen (environmentalists lead) on this letter so that they are aware of your interest as they continue their attempts to develop an alternative proposal.

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Please contact Bob Hoyt, Director of the Department of Environmental Protection, if you have any questions about this request. Mr. Hoyt can be reached at 240-777-7730. Once again, thank you for your commitment to improving Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by
Isiah Leggett**

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

cc: Bob Hoyt, Director, Department of Environmental Protection
Robert Kaufman
Caren Madsen