



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

April 14, 2011

Ms. Caren Madsen
1918 Locust Grove Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Madsen:

Thank you for your participation in recent efforts to develop amendments to Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law (FCL). This is not an easy task, and I appreciate the time you and your colleagues have spent working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on their proposed amendments. Based on information from DEP Director Bob Hoyt, I understand that there are provisions in the DEP proposal that are not supported by the constituency you represent. Furthermore, I understand that you have been meeting recently with representatives of the development community and believe that you can develop a mutually agreeable approach to forest and tree regulation.

I am committed to proposing amendments to the FCL. As such, I am prepared to move forward with a version of DEP's approach in the absence of a reasonable alternative. However, as you know, a proposal broadly supported by affected stakeholders has a much greater chance of passage. Therefore, I welcome the results of your collective effort. Given the extensive time and effort that has already been devoted to this issue by all stakeholders, I would like to move forward on this issue within the next couple of months. Towards that end, I would appreciate receiving your joint proposal for modifying the FCL by July 1, 2011.

Please contact Bob Hoyt at the Department of Environmental Protection if you have any questions about this request. Once again, thank you for your commitment to improving Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

- c: Kathleen Boucher, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Robert G. Hoyt, Department of Environmental Protection
Robert Kaufman, Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association