



Email sent to local delegates and senators concerning not rolling back the Stormwater Act of 2007

Sent in March and April, 2010 by the Board of *Friends of Sligo Creek*

We much appreciate all the hard work you are doing in Annapolis this year. On top of everything else, we ask that you fight efforts to dilute the Stormwater Act of 2007. We recently learned that there is an effort to give in to pressures from developers to grandfather in projects. While this may provide some short-term economic benefit to them, in the long haul, it will mean more economic and environmental damage to Chesapeake Bay and its feeder streams. We strongly believe we can't afford more delays in setting to the task of cleaning up the most important economic engine in the State.

Excerpt from reply letter from Delegate Heather R. Mizeur (dated April 9, 2010)

"The amended version of HB 1125 came before the General Assembly to respond to pending regulations to implement the Stormwater Management Act. According to advocates and opponents, the 2007 law and subsequent regulations did not provide clarity for the local government waiver process, and had no expiration dates for the grandfathering process. In its amended form, HB 1125 sets clear guidelines for the implementation of stormwater restrictions. Only projects initially approved by May 4, 2010 are eligible for grandfathering, and must include plans detailing site drainage patterns, discharge points, and stormwater management controls. Grandfathered projects must also receive final approval and financing by 2013 and finish construction by 2017. HB 1125 as amended will also improve the waiver provisions, continuing to allow local governments to control the waiver process-- a longstanding practice-- but will place clear boundaries on when waivers may be sought.

While I would prefer legislation that immediately implements stormwater runoff regulations for all projects, economic realities prevent that from happening right now. I believe the amended bill-- negotiated and supported by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 1000 Friends of Maryland, and the Department of the Environment-- upholds and even strengthens the landmark bill we passed in 2007. We must always take strong actions to protect the Chesapeake Bay and other Maryland waterways, and while the amended version of HB 1125 is not perfect, it moves us closer to that shared goal."