

Chairman Ball and Members of the County Council:

My name is Erin Oliver and I am Action Chair for the League of Women Voters of Howard County. I am here tonight to express the League of Women Voter's concern about 52-2015. This Act would reduce the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee until it is eliminated in 2018. Our watershed needs to be protected and funded. With the elimination of the fee and without a designated source of funding, it is unclear what will be the funding source to maintain the watershed. Just stating that the fund will come from the general fund does not quiet our concerns.

We want to ensure that a funding source is designated to fund the watershed restoration as stated under the current law. If this bill passes, funding for the watershed will come from the General Fund and Howard County Executive Alan Kittleman has not expressed what will be the trade off from funding from the general fund instead of having a designated funding source through the designated Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee.

Without more clarification and a dedicated funding source, we ask the Council to not vote for 52-2015.