



January 19, 2021

Committee Chair Barve  
And House Environmental and Transportation Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, MD

**Subject: In support of HB0080 - Department of Transportation and Department of the Environment - Purple Line Tree Replacement Plan**

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members,

East Bethesda Citizens Association (EBCA) is writing in **strong support of HB0080**. East Bethesda is located along the Purple Line route, shares a border with the Capital Crescent Trail, and has seen considerable tree canopy loss due to Purple Line construction, along with additional significant tree canopy loss due to impacts from other infill construction and development, utility trimming, Emerald Ash borer, and an aging mature tree canopy.

This legislation would require MDOT and MDE to coordinate efforts across state and local agencies to replant trees in local communities impacted by tree canopy loss associated with the project. Between Wisconsin Avenue and Connecticut Avenue alone there has been close to 5 acres of forest stand loss and an additional 3.3 acres of tree loss associated with the project. Currently, there is little replanting planned for this stretch.

Protecting existing forests located far from the Purple Line project (and in different watersheds) does not help to shade and cool local neighborhoods, to improve local air quality, or to provide pleasant tree-lined sidewalks and streets for walking and biking to and from Purple Line stations.

HB0080 is needed to ensure tree canopy replacement occurs in local neighborhoods impacted by the project.

**Thank you for a favorable consideration of HB0080.**

Andy O'Hare  
EBCA President