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March 1st, 2023

SB-0586 Natural Resources – Licensed Tree Experts - Alterations

**SPONSOR:** Senator Katie Fry Hester,

**POSITION:** Favorable

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Dear Senator Katie Fry Hester

I would like to share my personal and professional experience as the owner of a small tree trimming and removal company.

As a fully licensed and insured tree company, we have trouble bidding against non-licensed and non-employed people bidding tree work without proper licensing or liability and worker's compensation insurance. It's important because the more that it happens in the residential industry the more that they are going to start tapping into the commercial and municipality industries.

Consumers are not aware of the laws that are required to do tree work and Maryland and they also are not enforced and not treated the same as other construction industries and often the severity is a lot greater. There is a lack of supervision and enforcement. A lot of time these unlicensed tree workers do not have the best interest of the homeowners or the trees, they are just trying to make a quick buck. Unlicensed tree workers take away 30% of residential business from licensed and professional tree companies.

The current laws are very vague and hard to understand, especially when it comes to policing and reinforcing these regulations.

Because of this, I am in favor of Senate Bill 0586.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Remines".

Charles Remines  
Sole Managing Member  
Forest Valley Tree & Turf