

Forest Conservation Act Amendments

Template for People of Faith Writing to Maryland State Legislators to urge support

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NOTE: Personal letters, personal calls, and letters that have been handwritten or hand signed and mailed gain the attention of state elected officials. They notice when you put in the effort to contact them personally. Please customize the text below to make it your own.

The Honorable (Your State Delegate or Senator, visit <http://mdelect.net/> if not sure who that is)

(delegates) House Office Building, 6 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401-1912

(senators) Senate Office buildings, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: Suite of Three Bills for Forest Conservation Act Amendments

Dear Senator ____: OR Dear Delegate _____:

As a person of faith who respects the sanctity of the Earth and the whole web of life, I am writing to ask for your **support** for the Forest Conservation Act amendments. There are 3 bills that make up this effort.

- a. Bill to form a Task Force to study this issue and make recommendations - [pending Bill Numbers]
- b. Bill to Fix our Broken Fee-In-Lieu system - House Bill 272/ Senate Bill 234
- c. Bill to Define No Net Loss - House Bill 120/Senate Bill

Children once played easily in trees in their backyard, at a park down the street, or at Grandma's house. But, today, forests are hard to find – when was the last time you spotted a child climbing a tree?

We are literally stealing trees from the next generation. From 2009 to 2017, over 14,000 acres of forest have been lost due to development. Forests play a crucial role in stabilizing soil, improving air and water quality, offering important mammal habitats, and reducing ambient air temperatures with cooling shade.

The loss of tree canopy is felt by the general public and future generations, while developers profit from transforming land away from its natural state. The suite of 3 bills will amend the Forest Conservation Act as follows:

1. Create a task force made up of broad stakeholders to examine historical forestry data and make recommendations for how to protect our forests.
2. Fix the broken fee-in-lieu system that is currently failing to replace lost forests acre-for-acre.
3. Redefine "No Net Loss" in the Act so that forested land is protected at the level it existed when the Act was first implemented in the 1990s, as originally intended.

We shall not steal trees from the next generation. Please fight to protect our forests by supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Name

Address