



Testimony of the Advocates for Herring Bay¹
Submitted by: Stephen Marley
Regarding Bill 26-24: Zoning —Amendments to Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance
April 15, 2024

The Advocates for Herring Bay (AHB) strongly object to the changes to §18-2-108(a) proposed by Bill 26-24. We urge you to vote against the bill.

Reducing the required notice period for amendments to Comprehensive Rezoning from 14 days to 7 days would not provide sufficient time for residents to be aware of a proposed change, to assess pros and cons, and to convey community concerns. The current 14-day period is the minimum amount of time needed for citizens to provide the Council with substantive feedback on zoning amendments, especially for changes that would affect environmentally sensitive lands, such as those in the Critical Area, Greenways, or areas vulnerable to sea-level rise.

AHB asks the Council to find an alternative remedy for the legislative backlog in processing zoning amendments. Citizen input is not the cause of that backlog. While we recognize the administrative challenges in the current application process, we must urge that residents' rights not be sacrificed to resolve those challenges.

Thank you for considering our views.

¹ The Advocates for Herring Bay, Inc. is a community-based environmental group in southern Anne Arundel County.