



December 17, 2006

Honorable Edward Reilly
Councilman, District 7
Anne Arundel County Council
P.O. Box 2700
Annapolis, MD 21404

Dear Mr. Reilly,

The council's upcoming votes on the Board of Appeals will have a profound effect on the county's land use policies in the years ahead. Laws and regulations provide a framework for decisions, but what happens on the ground depends on the actions of the people who are given the power to implement them. In our view, previous Boards of Appeals used their powers in ways that undermined, rather than strengthened, Anne Arundel County's enforcement of Critical Area laws. Variances and retroactive waivers were so commonplace that the Critical Area standards essentially did not apply to anyone who had the money, time, and stamina to apply for an exception.

It is time for a fresh start. We applaud Mr. Leopold's recent executive order affirming his commitment to strong enforcement of the Critical Area laws in Anne Arundel County. Your choices for the Board of Appeals will play an integral part in determining whether that vision becomes a reality. As a group of individuals working to preserve the ecological health of the Herring Bay area, we urge you to appoint members who will restore and reinvigorate Anne Arundel County's commitment to both the letter and spirit of our environmental laws.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gramp
President
Advocates for Herring Bay