



Testimony of Barbara Miller
On Behalf of the Advocates for Herring Bay
Bill 90-13: Stormwater Management – Watershed Protection and Restoration Program
DRAFT--November 18, 2013- DRAFT

Bill 90-13 would cut the stormwater fee to \$1 a year for all households and businesses. No one enjoys paying taxes, so it's easy to understand why this proposal would be popular.

On the other hand, taxes allow us to pool our resources to do things we **cannot do alone**. We operate schools together, share police and fire services, and build roads and public utilities that serve the community as a whole.

Making sure we have clean water is also something we cannot do alone. Today, a large portion of the pollution in our waterways comes from runoff from **public** spaces—streets, parking lots, and other common areas. Individual citizens can't fix problems on property owned by others.

The current stormwater fee gives us the resources we need to reduce pollution from public spaces. The money goes into a dedicated trust fund, which means it can only be spent for that purpose.

If this bill is enacted, what would the county do about the toxins from our roadways? Would they cut other county programs to pay for remediation? What programs would they cut? Or would they just ignore our stormwater problems?

Waters in Anne Arundel County will get cleaner only to the degree that our local officials find the funds for needed work. Spending only \$1 per household will not do it. Spending only \$1 per household will mean a continuation of dirty, unhealthy waters.

We urge you to vote against Bill 90-13.