



Testimony on Bill 12-10  
An ordinance concerning: Subdivision and Development — Development Impact Fees  
Presented on April 5, 2010

My name is Barbara Miller and I am here this evening on behalf of the Advocates for Herring Bay.

Like others throughout Maryland, we have high expectations for county services. We want our county government to provide excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and healthy streams, rivers, and bays. To fulfill those expectations, we all pay taxes. As members of the Anne Arundel County Council, you are the ones who have to decide how to allocate that tax burden fairly and effectively.

Bill 12-10 fails that test. Impact fees are already out of balance because they do not cover the costs stemming from new development. Having the fees set too low creates chronic budget deficits. Postponing an increase in those fees would make the shortfall even bigger. Which of our county services are you going to cut to pay for the new roads and schools needed to support new development? Are you going to cut money needed for stream restoration, or libraries, or the police? How many teachers or other county employees will be furloughed because one lobby wants a tax break? How many of our children will find themselves in crowded classrooms?

We cannot escape these kinds of trade-offs, not when the county is facing a \$95 million deficit. Tax breaks for new development might have gone unnoticed when the economy was booming, but those days are over. We cannot afford to subsidize developers any more. We urge you to vote against this bill.