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Sent: Mar 27, 2013 8:03 PM

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Cc: Bob.Hoyt@montgomerycountymd.gov

Subject: Montgomery County Civic Federation Supports Council Bill 34-12

Dear President Navarro and Council Members,

The Montgomery County Civic Federation urges you to pass Council Bill 34-12. Much of the County was developed before modern stormwater management requirements were in place. If Montgomery is going to meet the terms of its MS4 permit (especially the requirement to complete restoration efforts for an additional 20 percent of the County's impervious, urban surfaces not currently restored to the maximum extent practicable) we will need sufficient water quality protection fees to retrofit existing impervious surfaces. This is a difficult enough challenge without excluding whole classes of landowners from the stormwater utility rate base.

Moreover, including nonresidential landowners in the rate base will help address the current dis-incentive for retrofitting existing parking lots. Currently, a nonprofit or business can repave an existing lot without having to get a permit; but if instead they were to retrofit the lot with porous paving or other treatments, they would have to go through the effort, time, and expense to obtain a permit. With Council Bill 34-12, however, the landowner would pay a fee based on the amount of impervious surface, and could lessen that fee by installing approved retrofits.

Furthermore, we believe nonresidential landowners need to be included in the stormwater utility rate base for the following reasons:

- It is required by state law (HB 987)
- All landowners contribute to stormwater pollution, so in fairness all should participate in abating that pollution. (keep in mind that few residences have acres of impervious parking lots)
- If businesses and nonprofits are given a free pass, residents will have to make up the difference by paying higher rates.

In reference to the last point, it's worth noting that both Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties will be including nonresidential landowners in their rate bases- shouldn't Montgomery's taxpayers get the same square deal?

Sincerely,

Carole Ann Barth
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