

Support HB504

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; preservation of mature trees

Delegate Patrick Hope

Reasons to Support House Bill 504

1. House Bill 504 would amend the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act by requiring the State Water Control Board's regulations to promote the *preservation of mature trees as a water quality protection tool and as a means of providing other benefits* in connection with development activities.
2. This is a practical way to conserve mature trees during development. Some trees in the path of development are decades, and in some instances, hundreds of years old. The ecosystem services mature trees provide can't be "replaced" in our lifetime, which is why they're worthy of our care and attention.
3. Mature trees provide multiple benefits:
 - mitigate flooding (particularly during storm surges)
 - capture and hold rainwater to reduce the volume of water going into storm drains
 - reduce erosion
 - clean the air of toxic particulates
 - sequester carbon
 - cool our warming cities (thus reducing energy costs as well as heat-related illness
 - increase property values.

Overview

House Bill 504 adds the preservation of mature trees to the list of activities that the State Water Resources Board is directed to encourage local governments to adopt as criteria for development in Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas. Mature trees provide a host of benefits, such as: mitigating flooding, reducing the volume of stormwater entering storm drains, reducing erosion, cleansing the air of toxic particulates, cooling cities, and increasing property values. Some trees in the path of development are decades, and in some instances, hundreds of years old. The ecosystem services mature trees provide can't be "replaced" in our lifetime, which is why they're worthy of our care and attention.



Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Peggy Sanner
psanner@cbf.org
804-543-9768



Virginia Conservation Network
Pat Calvert
pat@vcnva.org | 434.484.0804
www.VCNVA.org