



Eco-Action Committee

June 1, 2020

Re: Critical Area expansion

Board of Appeals Case # VAR2020-001

Dear Board of Appeals members:

The Eastport Civic Association's Eco-Action Committee has reviewed Case # VAR2020-001 and recommends against granting the variance. The case was reviewed under standard variance standards of city code rather than under the Critical Area law variance rules which we believe is the appropriate review process for this matter.

Back Creek was once teeming with aquatic life including oysters, rays crabs and rockfish. We have lost all but a few species of fish and certainly the crab and oyster populations have been decimated. The current "red tide" is making it impossible to swim or participate in watersports that involve going into the water. We have lost almost all of our sub aquatic vegetation. The Creek is impaired. Allowing more impervious surface or lot coverage in the critical area will add to this damage to Back Creek.

The City of Annapolis Watershed Improvement Plan, and water quality report cards prepared by the Back Creek Conservancy, now part of the Severn River Association, show that our water quality is impaired. Allowing further building in the critical area will only cause more environmental degradation to the water quality of Back Creek. The taxpayers will bear the cost of our attempts at remediation of the continuing onslaught of stormwater into all of our Creeks as we increase lot coverage in the critical area where it does not belong.

We respectfully request that you do not expand lot coverage to areas that were deemed to not be lot coverage when they were built. This loophole will impact more than just Back Creek.

Please do not grant Variance # VAR2020-001.

Thank you.

Gregory Brennan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Brennan', written in a cursive style.

Chairman, Eco-Action Committee

cc: Darlene Finch Vice Chair Eco-Action Committee