

April 7, 2025 Hearing before the Montgomery County Maryland Council

Subject: FY 2026 Budget for the Department of Environmental Protection and the Water Quality Protection Charge

Written Testimony from Anne Vorce

My name is Anne Vorce. I am submitting written testimony as a private citizen, but I am very active in County environmental issues through the Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC) and my civic association Seven Oaks-Evanswood (SOECA). As part of FOSC, I head the Water WatchDog Program, the longstanding partnership between FOSC and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to investigate people's water pollution reports, track down the pollution source and stop it, if possible.

I am submitting testimony today in strong support of the work of DEP as stewards of the environment, and would like to single out in particular the dedicated and skilled enforcement team I work with through the Water WatchDog program. Both I and others in the Sligo Creek community who have submitted pollution reports through our partnership have been impressed by the speed, focus and skill in their response to reports of possible illicit discharge in the Sligo Creek Watershed. Furthermore, the DEP team typically performs an important educational function as part of its follow up by describing the problem, teaching us how they identified it, taking action about it if possible, and guiding us on what we can or should be done about it. We at FOSC relay their guidance to the Sligo Creek community, which has made us all far better stewards of the watershed. I hope that the Council will continue to strongly support their work.

Thank you.

Anne Vorce
Silver Spring