



FOREST CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

The Honorable George Leventhal  
County Council President  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett and Mr. Leventhal,

We are writing to alert you to a significant threat to our tree canopy in Montgomery County. The emerald ash borer (EAB) has now reached epidemic proportions here in the County.

The EAB is an invasive insect from Asia. It has already killed tens of millions of trees in 25 states and threatens to extinguish the ash tree. Ash trees are a common tree in the landscape. The potential costs for treating, removing, and replacing infested ash trees in Montgomery County may run into the millions.

Dead and dying ash trees rapidly become hazardous to citizens and property. Infested trees will adversely affect property values, stormwater management, energy demands and neighborhood aesthetics.

We urge you to fully support the County and partner agencies in their requests for resources to manage the potential impacts and costs of this invasive pest. These agencies are currently devising integrated EAB management plans and public information initiatives in conjunction with neighboring jurisdictions.

Everyone benefits from trees and canopy. Our collective goal is to conserve and enhance as much of our canopy as possible.

Sincerely,

John Pierson, Chair  
Montgomery County Forest  
Conservation Advisory Committee

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cc: Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Council  
Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Council  
Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council  
Tom Hucker, Montgomery County Council  
Sidney Katz, Montgomery County Council  
Nancy Navarro, Montgomery County Council  
Craig Rice, Montgomery County Council  
Hans Riemer, Montgomery County Council  
Lisa Feldt, Department of Environmental Protection  
Diane Jones, Department of Permitting Services  
Al Roshdieh, Department of Transportation  
Casey Anderson, Montgomery Planning Board  
Mike Riley, Montgomery Parks  
Patricia O'Neill, Montgomery County Board of Education