

E&R: 2008-1

SUPPORT FOR VIRGINIA TREE CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has established a Tree Canopy goal of 45 percent;

WHEREAS, current development practices in Fairfax County are projected to reduce the tree canopy coverage from over 40 percent down to no more than 38 percent before any improvements in tree canopy will be realized;

WHEREAS, Fairfax County ordinances do not provide tools to effectively preserve trees as properties are developed and redeveloped;

WHEREAS, trees provide critical environmental benefits that include removal of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere (a green house gas), soil stabilization, habitat for wildlife, removal of pollutants from the air and soil that would otherwise make their way into waterways, and other benefits;

WHEREAS, General Assembly Senate and House bills (specifically HB1437 and SB710):

- increase the quantity of tree preservation that we realize on by-right development sites through current local ordinances,
- provide for higher quality tree canopy, and
- are realistic and achievable without significant impacts to the economic yield of development sites; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) believes trees are important to enhance our quality of life, enhance property values, and promote a sustainable environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MVCCA endorses the enactment of these bills because they are good for the environment and for the future of Fairfax County; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the MVCCA requests that the Fairfax County BOS and the Virginia delegation representing Fairfax County support these bills.