## **VOGEL ENGINEERING** + TIMMONS GROUP

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January 20, 2021

Mr. Derrick Jones
Division of Land Development
Howard County Department
of Planning and Zoning
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: (

Cascade Ridge SP-19-004

Scenic Road

Dear Mr. Jones,

In accordance with your email dated January 19, 2021, we are providing the attached additional materials and narrative in conjunction with information required for Planning Board. Specifically, this submittal addresses Section 16.125(c)(4)(iii) C-E. Items a and b were previously provided.

- 1. There are approximately 33 trees 12" dbh or greater located in the 100' scenic road buffer. The location and size of trees are shown on the attached exhibit. These trees are predominately Tulip Poplar located in and adjacent to the existing wetland/stream system. Other trees include Red Maple in addition to Black Cherry, Green Ash and Black Gum. The shrub layer predominately consists of Japanese Barberry with Multiflora Rose and Wineberry also notable. The understory is impacted by invasives including Japanese Stiltgrass, English Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle and Oriental Bittersweet. There are no proposed impacts to the 100' scenic road buffer.
- 2. Cascade Ridge is located approximately 850' east of Ilchester Road on the north side of Landing Road. There are several residential subdivisions located west and east of the subject property. We have provided and exhibit which includes the various views from Landing Road in the vicinity of these developments. Some of the homes in the newer developments are directly visible from the road without any meaningful screening or buffering. However, there are several projects that have retained existing vegetation or provided plantings to buffer the homes. There are also several older homes and farmettes which have direct access to Landing Road which utilize little or no screening. The more recent developments provide landscaping as a buffer or screen to the scenic road although the width of the buffers vary greatly. The proposed 100' vegetative retention buffer for the Cascade Ridge project will be consistent with the largest Landing Road buffers and will exceed a majority of the existing buffers. In addition to the new residential

structures there are several locations where stormwater management facilities are in full view from the road.

3. The Cascade Ridge project has been designed to protect the environmental resources which are adjacent to Landing Road. This results in the homes being located away from the right-of-way and therefore should not be visible from the scenic road considering the retention of all existing vegetation within 225' of Landing Road. The closest house will be located over 400' from the Landing Road right-of-way.

There are no direct driveway connections or proposed road accesses to Landing Road further protecting the natural elements and viewshed. Although the houses should not be visible from the scenic road, there are no rear facades oriented toward Landing Road.

The scenic visual character of Landing Road should not be impacted by the proposed subdivision due to the location of the homes and the extent of vegetative retention.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

**VOGEL ENGINEERING + TIMMONS GROUP** 

Robert H. Vogel, P.E.







