

Thank you Catholics for helping to pass stormwater fee amendment

Editor:

I would like to thank the dozens of Catholics from throughout Baltimore County who contacted my office to express their concerns with the state-mandated stormwater fee.

The Baltimore County Council passed an amendment to this legislation that reduces the burden on religious and nonprofit entities. Under the amendment, the cost drops by 48 percent. But make no mistake: public support was critical in getting this passed.

County Council Chairman Tom Quirk was a strong advocate and primary sponsor of this amendment. My colleague Councilwoman Vicki Almond, whose district includes most of the county's synagogues, was also a key supporter. I would like to thank them, in particular, for building a bipartisan majority to pass this amendment.

Our religious and nonprofit institutions are essential in Baltimore County. They provide education and community resources that that government cannot exclusively provide. I simply cannot imagine the Fifth District I represent without the presence and leadership of parishes such as The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, and St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church.

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