

(2) IF PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, AT THE OPTION OF THE STATE OR LOCAL AUTHORITY, "TRACT" MEANS THE ENTIRE PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT.

~~(H) (KK) "TREE" MEANS A LARGE, WOODY PLANT HAVING 1 OR SEVERAL SELF-SUPPORTING STEMS OR TRUNKS AND NUMEROUS BRANCHES THAT REACH A HEIGHT OF AT LEAST 20 FEET AT MATURITY.~~

~~(J) (LL) "WHIP" MEANS AN UNBRANCHED WOODY PLANT GREATER THAN 24 INCHES IN HEIGHT AND HAVING A DIAMETER OF LESS THAN 1 INCH CALIPER MEASURED AT 2 INCHES ABOVE THE ROOT COLLAR.~~

5-1602.

~~(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE CONSERVATION OF FORESTS AND THE CREATION OF NEW FOREST AREAS IN MARYLAND ARE NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE, AND ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE RESTORATION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, THE IMPROVEMENT OF AIR AND BOTH GROUND AND SURFACE WATER QUALITY, THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND THE MODERATION OF THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT BECAUSE TREES AND FORESTS:~~

~~(1) PROVIDE SOIL STABILIZATION, AND INTERCEPTION, PERCOLATION, AND FILTRATION OF SURFACE WATER RUNOFF;~~

~~(2) CONTRIBUTE TO COOLING AND PURIFYING THE AIR BY CREATING SHADE, REMOVING PARTICULATE MATTER, AND ADDING MOISTURE TO THE AIR THROUGH EVAPO-TRANSPIRATION;~~

~~(3) PROVIDE VALUABLE WILDLIFE AND AQUATIC HABITAT THROUGH SHADING AND COOLING OF BODIES OF WATER, MAINTENANCE OF FOOD, COVER, AND SPACE TO ALLOW THESE POPULATIONS TO BE PERPETUATED; AND~~

~~(4) IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE BY PROVIDING FOR RECREATION, AESTHETICS, MODERATION OF LOCAL CLIMATE AND REDUCED ENERGY NEEDS.~~

~~(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THIS FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND COORDINATED WITH OTHER STATE AND LOCAL CONSERVATION, REFORESTATION, AND AFFORESTATION PROGRAMS, STATUTES AND REGULATIONS AS ONE PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE NO NET LOSS OF FOREST COVER IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.~~

~~(C) FURTHER, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE FOR FOREST CONSERVATION DURING DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FOLLOWING PRIORITY AREAS:~~