

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

MARY M. CHEH, CHAIR

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Mary M. Cheh
DATE: March 30, 2022
SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Move an Amendment at the April 5, 2022, Legislative Meeting

I intend to move the following amendment at the April 5, 2022, Legislative Meeting:

- Cheh Amendment #1 to B24-686, the Urban Forest Preservation Stop Work Order Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2022

In response to recent illegal removals of protected Heritage Trees, I introduced the Urban Forest Preservation Stop Work Order Authority Emergency and Temporary Amendment Acts of 2022. The Committee on Transportation and the Environment is currently in the process of marking up an expanded permanent version of the bill, which does even more to address and prevent these illegal tree removals.

However, under the current law, including the temporary act that passed the Council at the March 1, 2022 legislative meeting, the Mayor is required to transmit any regulations implementing the tree protection laws to the Council for a 45-day review period, excluding weekends, holidays, and periods of Council recess. Without Council action within the 45-day period, the regulations are deemed disapproved. This creates a cumbersome process that prevents the Mayor from efficiently and effectively implementing the tree protection law.

There is no need for the Mayor to promulgate standards and regulations implementing the law in this area differently than in other areas of the law. This amendment repeals the subsection of the Urban Forest Preservation Act (§ 8-651.03(b)) that requires Council review. It also strikes subsection (b) of section 2 of the temporary act, which required the Mayor to issue regulations to implement the act, and is duplicative of §8-651.03(a)(1).

Please contact my legislative director Michael Porcello at 724-8062 or mporcello@dccouncil.us if you have any questions.