



## ROBERT G. CASSILLY

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Harford County Executive

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### **Harford's Cassilly Administration Appeals Court's Decision Allowing Development of 300-Acre Abingdon Business Park to Resume**

**BEL AIR, Md.,** (Nov. 21, 2023) - Harford County has appealed a circuit court judge's order that allows development of Abingdon Business Park to resume. The proposed project on more than 300 acres south of Bel Air includes four large warehouses and numerous retail operations. The court's decision centered on the developer's forest conservation plan (FCP).

#### Background

Abingdon Business Park's FCP was approved under the prior administration but was challenged in court by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and area residents. The Maryland Supreme Court heard the case and ruled that the FCP was deficient and unacceptable.

In light of the Supreme Court's ruling, County Executive Bob Cassilly asked that the FCP be sent back to his new administration for review and the judge agreed.

Because the project could not legally move forward without an approved FCP, the Cassilly administration revoked the developer's grading permit and site plan approval and issued a stop-work order for the site.

The developer appealed this decision and on Wednesday a judge ruled that the FCP - which had been amended but was never approved by the Cassilly administration - is valid. The judge also

voided the Cassilly administration's revocation of the permits and site plan, meaning that work can resume.

The following day, the Cassilly administration filed an appeal.

"The residents of Harford County rightly expect us to uphold the law," County Executive Cassilly said. "The forest conservation plan filed by the developer of Abingdon Business Park violates state and county forest conservation requirements, and my administration will continue working to ensure the law is followed."

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