

For more information, contact:
Jan Hidden
press@kathyreinermartin.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kathy Reiner Martin Seeks Repayment of Open Space Money

03.20.06 – Kathy Reiner Martin, community activist and candidate for the Baltimore County Council, 5th District, testified in Annapolis Monday, March 20, 2006 in favor of bills returning money owed to Program Open Space. Those funds could purchase much needed recreation and park areas in Baltimore County.

Her remarks emphasized that quicker restoration of Program Open Space funding was essential in areas like Perry Hall which “has been, and continues to be deficit in its open space.”

In prior years the Maryland legislature diverted money meant for Program Open Space to other programs. House Bills 815 and 1274, now before the House Appropriations Committee, seek repayment for all diverted years, and for repayment to start four years ahead of the present schedule.

Baltimore County faces the collision of a growing population and need for recreation and parks lands, escalating land costs, and an ever diminishing supply of suitable property. Funding delays diminish the buying power of the money and hamper efforts to provide vital “quality of life” components, according to the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks.

Reiner Martin was joined in her testimony by Steve Verch, attorney and member of the Baltimore County Board of Recreation and Parks; Bob Stanhope, Chief Naturalist of Marshy Point Nature Center; Tom Ross, Executive Director of the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association; and Vera Reiner of the Marshy Point Nature Center.

###