



**Our Mission: Sustainable Delaware is a group of residents focused on promoting environmental, social, and economic sustainability for the Delaware community through awareness, advocacy, and action.**

December 6, 2023

Dear Mayor, Members of Council, and Staff,

Sustainable Delaware Ohio (SDO) supports the Chapter 1168 draft as proposed to City Council on [November 27, 2023](#). We are grateful for those who recognize the essential nexus of trees to our community, including the Sixth Circuit Court judge in *FP vs Canton, MI* (see opinion, especially p.9). Likewise, we agree that trees serve a vital service to our communities including cleaning air pollution and filtering water. We agree that the benefits of trees listed in the 1168.01 purpose statement are supported by science as well as critical to a healthy community.

Additionally, we recognize the work that went into creating this document and the benefit it will provide to our community. The City has already shown in great detail that there is no additional cost to developers with the new version of the code. In fact, with the new Chapter 1168, the City would now count trees planted in the tree lawn towards tree preservation requirements for the first time. Additionally, since it counts tree canopy at maturity, the growth of trees over time will accommodate both the built and natural environment under this code. Although it doesn't contain all we had hoped for in a tree code, we see this version as a reasonable compromise between development and natural resource needs in our community.

We are proud to live in a forward-thinking city like Delaware, and we thank you for recognizing that the preservation and growth of our tree canopy is an essential part of our community's thriving future.

Sincerely,

Sustainable Delaware Ohio

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