

**DEMOCRAT for COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

## **Environmental Testimonials in Support of Marc Elrich\***

### **Anne Ambler, Former Chair, Montgomery County Sierra Club**

"I have known Marc Elrich for more than 12 years through my various roles in the environmental community. His bold leadership and support on many green issues over the years – forest conservation, limiting pesticide use, reducing plastic pollution through the bag tax, and designing and promoting a sorely needed rapid transit network for Montgomery County – has been steadfast. Marc researches issues so that, for instance, he alone on the Council recognized the health, environmental, and fiscal hazards of artificial turf. Since he does not take money from special interests and does listen respectfully to the concerns of constituents, you can know that he will make the wisest and best-informed decision possible for the citizens of the county."

### **Gina Angiola, MD, Board member, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility**

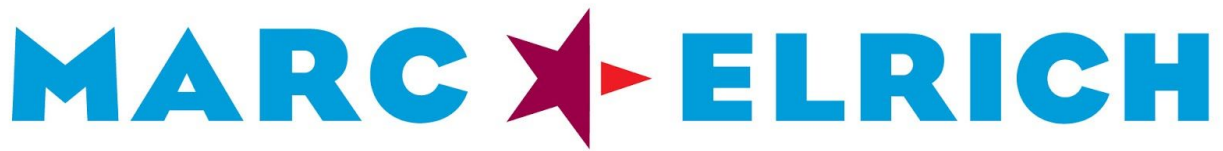
"On every issue of environmental importance, Marc has been on the correct side of the issue and has spoken out. However, perhaps what I most appreciate about Marc is his eagerness to learn new information and his ability to incorporate it into good policy. He is not content to rest on past accomplishments; he wants to solve the problems we currently face. He's not afraid to ask questions and explore real solutions. That's the type of leadership we need."

### **David Blockstein, PhD in Ecology**

"Marc Elrich has been THE environmental leader on the County Council. Unbought by developers and lobbyists, guided by science and the interests of his constituents, Marc has consistently been ahead of his colleagues on climate change and energy issues, forest protection and land preservation, clean and safe water, protection from toxic substances and advancing clean transit. Marc has fought for citizen control of decision-making and has never backed down from challenging the special interests who put private profit above the quality of life of Montgomery County residents."

### **Tina and Jim Brown, Sugarloaf Citizens Association Board Members**

"Jim and I have known Marc since his first term as County Councilmember. We valued his Takoma Park teaching and local government experience that he brought to the County Council. When we needed help from the County Council on environmental, land use and social justice issues, Marc was able to absorb the complexity involved and went to work on behalf of our community. Over the years he has taken the lead on behalf of county residents when they have felt marginalized and ignored. We are supporting him for Montgomery County Executive because he will take the time to understand complex issues, as well as look at the impact on nearby residents. From traffic impact studies at the Metro stops to social justice issues surrounding transportation and development pressures in the Agricultural Reserve, Marc is there for the community."



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### **Arlene Bruhn, Conservation Montgomery Founding Board Member**

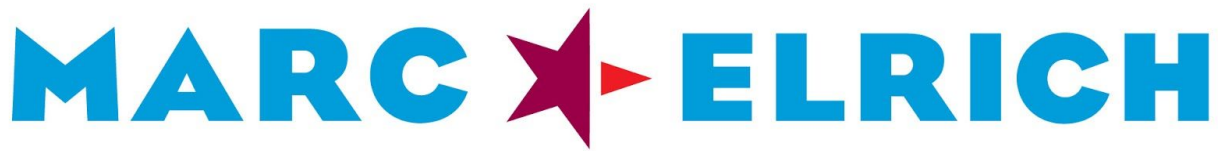
"Having worked with Marc over the past ten years on county tree and environmental legislation, I admire him for getting right to the point. He talks straight and is genuinely responsive to neighborhood concerns. He seeks workable, progressive solutions to the problems our changing communities face. His knowledgeable staff dig deep for information. They listen closely and take quick action. With his feet firmly planted on the ground, Marc rejects glossy, pie-in-the-sky proposals. He sees through empty and misleading communications. Astute and articulate, he does not suffer fools gladly. I believe his broad perspective combined with insight and depth of understanding will contribute to making him an excellent County Executive."

### **Diane Curran, environmental attorney**

"I am proud to back Marc Elrich for County Executive on his outstanding environmental record. For more than a decade, I have watched Marc lead the County Council on a range of important environmental issues – including land conservation at Ten Mile Creek, a bold carbon reduction target, and a new bus rapid transit initiative. He has a well-earned reputation for listening carefully to his constituents, studying the issues, and acting on his own independent conclusions without owing allegiance to special interests. Marc's thoughtfulness, independence and dogged advocacy for the environment set him apart from the crowd – not just as a politician but as a human being."

### **Marion Edey, Founder, League of Conservation Voters**

"Marc Elrich stands out above all others because of his commitment to do what is right. Others will adopt an issue once it becomes popular, but Marc is a pioneer who will take political risks and do the hard work to lead on issues which are critically important when they are not yet popular or well understood. He is a born collaborator and teacher. He knows how to bring the community together and will stand up to big developers or other special interests. One example: his leadership was essential to the passage of the Healthy Lawns Act in 2015, which banned the use of cosmetic pesticides, which are dangerous to pollinators and to human health. Marc Elrich is a true public servant."



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**Mike Gravitz, environmental lobbyist for ocean conservation; former board member of Clean Water Action and Audubon Naturalist Society**

"I know a true environmental candidate when I see one and Marc Elrich is just that. Here's why:

When developers wanted to pave over hundreds of acres near Ten Mile Creek, our County's last, best creek and emergency water supply, Marc Elrich was the first member of the County Council to step up and oppose this ill conceived plan. \*In the 1980s and 1990s, I worked with Marc on redevelopment plans for downtown Silver Spring. Marc was a fierce and effective ally during that decade long conflict. Today, Silver Spring is a vibrant downtown used by thousands thanks in part, to Marc and the civic activists who soundly defeated a series of bad plans advanced by developers, the Planning Board and the County Executive at the time. Marc was at our side when we worked to protect neighborhoods around downtown Bethesda from over development, traffic, and more overcrowded schools. Marc understood that good urban planning has to work for the community as well as developers, not just the people sending in big campaign contributions. Sadly, other members of the Council voted to max out development in Bethesda denying us the protection most other areas of the County have. Marc does his homework and he's not snowed by slick lobbyists and their lawyers. We need Marc now more than ever."

**Molly Hauck, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry - Co-Chair, 2003-2015, Member, 2015-present**

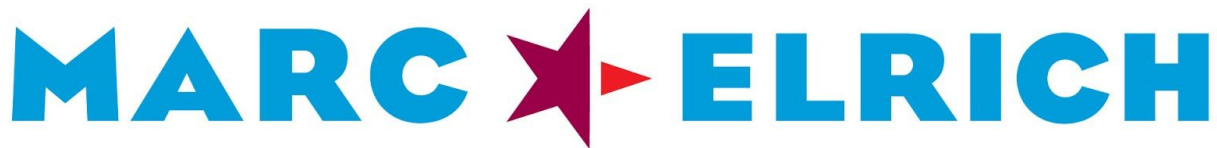
"Marc has integrity, which is the most important criterion for any candidate. He is totally honest and cannot be bought. He forms his own opinions before finding out how others are leaning. He is very good-natured and even-tempered and treats everyone with respect.

Marc returns checks to developers and is for balanced, sustainable growth. He understands the infrastructure needs of different part of the county and is able to differentiate between the parts of the county that are saturated with development and the parts that need more development.

Marc has been a leader on every environmental issue before the County Council and the state: bus rapid transit, Ten Mile Creek, artificial turf, getting to 100% renewable energy by 2035, eliminating dirty sources of energy from the Renewable Portfolio Standards, land use, tree conservation, the C&O Canal, divestment, and more. Many votes on the council end up unanimous or close, but what it takes to get there behind the scenes requires leadership, which Marc has consistently provided."

**Joe Howard, Montgomery County Forestry Board Member, 40 years; Founder, County Champion Tree List**

"Marc Elrich is one who realizes the many environmental, economic and psychological benefits of trees, forests and green spaces in our county. I support him for that reason alone, and I see him as a man with vision who would be an excellent County Executive."



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### **Kathleen Michels, PhD; environmental activist and volunteer with the Safe, Healthy Playing Fields Coalition**

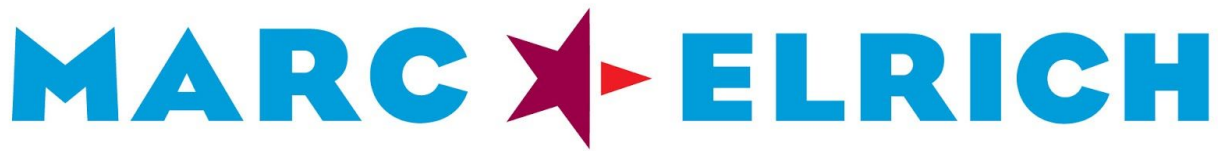
"County Executive candidate Marc Elrich has been a consistent voice on environmental issues in Montgomery County when his colleagues on the Council have waffled over the years. Marc has been a leader on new street tree and urban canopy legislation, passage of a bill on cosmetic pesticides and is quick to see through false promises and wasteful spending posing as solutions. For example he has taken the lead on proposing cost-effective desirable natural alternatives to short-lived synthetic plastic turf and tire playfields which have already generated huge amounts of plastic and tire waste, spread toxins into soil, water and air and create a heat island effect at great cost. And long before other Council members stepped forward on saving Ten Mile Creek -- and on other local environmental issues -- Marc has been on the record on the right side of environmental protection. Those of us who have been in the know about natural resource conservation in Montgomery County trust Marc Elrich implicitly."

### **Dolores Milmoie, Co-founder, Montgomery Countryside Alliance**

"I first met Marc in 1984 when a colossal, ill-conceived enclosed mall was proposed for the heart of Silver Spring. Aggressively pushed by the developer and supported by many on the County Council, it was an uphill struggle for environmental and civic activists. Marc's ability to thoroughly analyze the traffic and community impacts was the key to our coalition's win.

Fast forward to 2018. As an environmental activist for over two decades, I can attest to Marc's steadfast adherence to strong principles of environmental and social justice. On issue after issue, from our urban centers to the Agricultural Reserve, he has been the Council's premier environmental steward.

Since 2006, as an at-large Council Member representing all of Montgomery citizens, Marc and his staff have done what few other elected officials have: they show up, they listen to residents, they don't first measure the political winds, and they work very hard with Marc to deliver to communities what is best for residents, not just special interests. Marc is our environment's best choice, a game changer from the often 'quid pro quo, politics as usual' culture we so often find in the local political landscape."



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### **Rick Sullivan, environmental activist**

There was no need to convince Marc Elrich of the wisdom of divesting county pension funds from fossil fuel stocks. As soon as I told Marc about it in 2015 he declared his support. A full year before any other Council Member endorsed divestment, Marc was on board. Not only did he endorse divestment, he made his and his staff's time and resources fully available to the grassroots environmental activists like myself who were trying to initiate divestment legislation with the County Council. It was always clear to me that Marc backed divestment not because there might be political gain for him but because it's the right thing to do. Marc knows that addressing climate change is essential for a livable county and a livable planet.

Making progress on climate issues requires a broad and diverse political coalition. With his backing from labor and social justice organizations, Marc is ideally positioned to form and lead such a coalition. Marc is the candidate best suited to lead Montgomery County forward on fossil fuel divestment and climate issues in general.

### **Sylvia Tognetti, President, Friends of Ten Mile Creek**

"Marc Elrich has always been a partner with environmental organizations, alerting us to emerging issues that might otherwise be decided upon when no one is paying attention, and working with us to develop feasible alternative solutions and winning strategies, leading the way after having initially been a lone vote on the Council. Without Marc, much more of the Ten Mile Creek watershed would now be undergoing development. He has never needed to be convinced to do what is right. These differences among Councilmembers are not apparent from looking only at their final votes on a bill."

### **Rachel Toker, Montgomery County environmental consultant**

"In the race for County Executive, Marc Elrich stands out as man of integrity whose first priority is always the public welfare. His track record on the Montgomery County Council shows clearly that he is a person of principle, whose vote is not bought -- but instead based on the balanced consideration of competing public priorities. On issues such as protecting the health of the Ten Mile Creek watershed and bringing legislation like the County street tree law to fruition, Marc has demonstrated the wisdom of a decision-maker who balances the short and long term implications of public action. We need a County Executive who will stand up for our environment -- who will not sacrifice the environment when it is expedient to do so, and we need this same champion to understand and appreciate the varied needs of different members of our larger community. Marc is this person."

### **Joe Uehlein, Founding President of the Labor Network for Sustainability, and Voices for a Sustainable Future**

"Marc is a principled man of conviction for worker rights and the environment. He knows that we can make a living on a living planet and he'll propose and support the policies that will get us there."

# MARC ELRICH

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### **Anne Vorce, water quality advocate**

"Marc has the strongest environmental credentials of anyone running in the County. His legislative and hands-on work for projects throughout the county in support of clean water, clean air, and a healthier and larger tree canopy far exceeds what others running against him have done. I've witnessed first hand his environmental leadership on local water quality issues to protect the health and safety of Montgomery County residents, including times when no one else was stepping up."

**\*Note: Listed organizational memberships and positions are for identification purposes only and do not represent organizational endorsement.**