

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

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May 13, 2026

Erin E. Girard, Attorney
Lerch Early and Brewer
7600 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Ms. Girard:

The Friendship Heights Village Ad Hoc Community Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Environment would like to communicate our grave concern over the current plan to remove mature Willow Oak specimen trees from the GEICO site.

We request that the eight mature Willow Oak trees located on the west parking lot of this property be spared. We also ask that the very large Willow Oak tree directly next to the GEICO building entrance itself be spared as well.

- Oaks are native keystone species that uniquely provide outsize ecological benefit to the area, as reported by the National Park Service, the National Wildlife Federation, and numerous other scientific organizations. They can live 300-400 years. Oaks support insect, butterfly, and bird populations more than any other species.
- These valuable trees are now endangered by clear-cutting and invasive alien species.
- Except for the mature Willow Oaks on this property and along some local streets, oak trees are fast disappearing from local parks and woodlands and have been replaced with these invasive alien species that contribute almost nothing to our environment.

As part of being good neighbors and showing local residents that you care, we hope that GEICO and EYA will consider modifying their plans to maintain this important resource for Friendship Heights Village and the surrounding communities.

You can be part of this important public service. We need your help and look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andra Miller".

Andra Miller, PhD
Christine Knauer
Climate Change and Environmental Committee Co-Chairs