

February 20, 2020

Maryland General Assembly
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB203

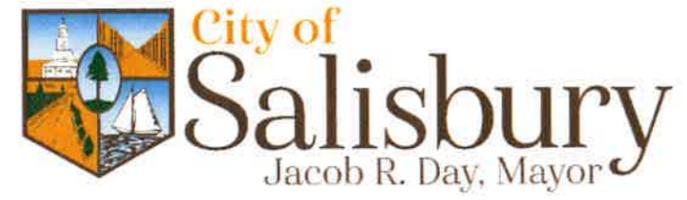
Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

We are writing to express our deep concern that Baltimore and Howard Counties have banded together to introduce HB 203/SB 614 and SB 962 which would to allow those counties to apply to the Community Parks and Playgrounds (CP&P) Program for funding for recreational projects.

Back when the State was originally considering the creation of the Community Parks & Playgrounds Program representatives from Salisbury went to Annapolis to testify on the need for such a program. At that point in time all of the Program Open Space (POS) funding was controlled by the counties. If a municipality wanted to fund a specific recreational project within their boundaries, they were totally at the mercy of the county in which they were located. If the county was not interested in the project, then it simply never got funded. This was very frustrating for the municipalities, as their wishes could be totally ignored.

With the creation of the Community Parks & Playgrounds Program the municipalities in Maryland finally had the ability to apply for funds directly from DNR, and complete projects that they were interested in without being potentially stymied by the county. The Salisbury Skatepark is a perfect example of such a project. Wicomico County repeatedly refused to approve any POS funding for that project, but we were finally able to obtain CP&P funding for it. The Salisbury Skatepark is a hugely popular facility, and is a real asset to the recreational options that we have to offer.

If two large counties like Baltimore and Howard are allowed to tap into the Community Parks and Playgrounds fund for their own purposes, that will undoubtedly have a major impact on the amount of recreational funding that is available to the municipalities for their projects. The counties already control the POS funds, please do not give them access to CP&P funds!



Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia Glanz", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Julia Glanz
City Administrator