

## **HB1565: Public Ethics and Campaign Activity - County Governing Bodies and County Executives - Planning and Zoning Applications**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to HB 1565.

The public is entitled to expect its Servant Leaders to set standards far above the morals of the marketplace. Those who exercise public and political power are trustees of the hopes and aspirations for everyone.

They are the trustees of a system of government in which the people must be able to place their absolute trust; .....for the preservation of their welfare, their safety and all they hold dear depends upon it.

Unfortunately, that trust was broken by a few bad actors in Prince Georges County 10 years ago. They received just and fair punishment.

It took foresight, tough advocacy, intelligence and courage, but over the last decade, the Leadership in Prince Georges County has proven that it is capable of that kind of strength.

Accordingly, I see no reason why they should not be afforded the same level of trust they have worked so hard to demonstrate to us.

I ask that you oppose HB 1565 and support HB 282.

John M Kane

### **Footnote:**

HB 282

Ways & Means

Repealing a prohibition on an applicant or applicant's agent making a payment to the County Executive of Prince George's County or a slate that includes the County Executive during the pendency of certain applications.

