



Annapolis, MD 21401 | (443) 620-4408 ph. | (443) 458-9437 fax

Senator William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Re: SB 256 – Oppose

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

On behalf of the Maryland Land Title Association, I am writing to register our opposition to SB 256, authored by Senator William C. Smith, Jr. SB 256 would permanently place a surcharge on each type of recordable instrument to be recorded among the land records.

This surcharge was scheduled to sunset and had been \$20. This legislation would continue an onerous charge on the processing of land records which was supposed to sunset. Now, we are being asked to continue paying for this surcharge and who is to guarantee that the surcharge which was initially \$20 and now in the bill is \$40 will not continue to escalate if this surcharge becomes permanent. MLTA had agreed to the initial legislation because it was a temporary surcharge with a definite end date. SB 256 will become another burden that the state's land title professionals have to bear and it is one we do not wish to bear.

Our membership who represents over 2,000 hard working title professionals in the state of Maryland, vehemently oppose the passage of Senate Bill 256.

If you have any questions or require anything additional from us, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Glazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Glazer  
Executive Director, MLTA