



January 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today in support of HB 135 – legislation that removes the sunset provision of Chapter 145 and continues uninterrupted distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC).

I sit on the Board of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra. Each year, the Annapolis Symphony receives significant grant money from the Maryland State Arts Council. This funding helps the Symphony bring more music to more people in our community, not just through the Symphony's onstage presence at Maryland Hall, but also through its Chamber Music series, Music Van for schools, Concerts for School Children (including Title 1 schools) and the annual free "Pops in the Park" concert at Quiet Waters Park. Most recently, the Symphony established the Annapolis Symphony Academy. Now in its second year, the Academy was established to nurture musical talent in children through high-level musical education, to promote cultural and economic diversity, and to give opportunities to less fortunate children. About half of all Academy students are of African American or Latino background. Approximately half of the students, regardless of their cultural background, receive need-based full-tuition scholarships.

The grant monies received by the Annapolis Symphony from the Maryland State Arts Council are vital to these community-outreach programs. The assurance that the passage of HB 135 would bring – removing the sunset provision in order to continue the distribution of \$1 million to MSAC – is vital to the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra's planning process. For this reason, I ask for a favorable report on HB 135.

Best regards,

Patricia Zeno
Annapolis Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees

THIS IS *Capital Sound.*

José-Luis Novo, Music Director | The Philip Richebourg Chair

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