

To: **Geraldine Valentino-Smith**
 Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates, District 23A
 Via e-mail: Geraldine.Valentino@house.state.md.us

21 February 2020

From: Patuxent Riding HOA
 Joyce Gross, Secretary
 14700 Stallion Ct
 Bowie, MD 20715

Subject: HOA Comments on Senate Bill 987 and House Bill 1056

The following comments are made in respect of the request for public comments on Senate Bill 987 and House Bill 1056 from the Home Owners' Association for the Patuxent Riding neighborhood, off of Race Track Road in Bowie, Maryland. The comments are not in order of importance.

Senate Bill 987

1. Senate Bill 987 is overly vague and inconsistent with the provided summary of the bills to the public, which states that the facilities developed *will ensure the lowest possible traffic impact*. As no specific options are outlined, no data provided on the number of events per year and the projected number of participants and attendees, and no traffic studies provided on the options, it is not possible for the public to make meaningful comments on the bill. In order to have meaningful public comments, the bill should provide specific details and supporting studies to allow people to make informed and meaningful comments. It does not currently meet the necessary threshold for public consultation.
2. The examples of possible active recreational facilities include football, soccer, baseball—all of which are spectator sports, which would involve multiple teams of players, coaches, spectators who would arrive by automobiles and/or buses, significantly increasing the traffic on Race Track Road. Again, the public would need to be informed about numbers of events and people anticipated, and see traffic studies to opine on the reasonableness of the bill. Options need to be elaborated and supporting studies done.
3. A 50,000 sq ft building is very large—and there is no information about what it would comprise. Presumably there would be locker rooms, showers for the athletes, but there could be recreational facilities such as an arena, catering, etc. for events. These activities would also have traffic flow—including trucks delivering supplies, cleaning facilities, maintenance, waste management. The description of a building only by size and not by use and occupants, does not allow meaningful comment from the public.
4. It is entirely unclear what would be in the future Memorandum of Understanding between Bowie State University and the City of Bowie. Without details on the agreement, again, it is not possible to comment on the impacts to the local residents or the traffic flow in the area. For sports or recreational events that the University may wish to hold, there is no sidewalk or shoulder to Jericho Park Road from the University to Race Track Road, which means that anyone going to a sports or recreational event at the Race Course Property would go in a vehicle, and not walk.
5. There is absolutely no information on the traffic situation on Race Track Road in the bill, or what would be done to mitigate the impacts. It is currently quite difficult to turn left out of the Patuxent Riding neighborhood onto Race Track Rd during many times of the day (there is only one access point to our neighborhood). There is also a left turn from Jericho Park Road and from the Kimberwick development onto Race Track Road, all of which are challenging at present during key times of the day, and would be impossible if the traffic flow were increased, particularly on event days for the active recreation proposal. The addition of three traffic lights on Race Track Road at these intersections would allow residents to turn south towards highway 450, but would slow down the traffic flow significantly along the road, as they are in rapid succession (all three roads within a quarter mile of each other). A solid traffic assessment and management plan on specific options is