



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

February 27, 2020

TO: The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Sidney Katz
President

RE: House Bill 1276 – *County Property Tax – Classifications of Real Property and Authority to Set Special Rates* – Oppose

House Bill 1276 establishes twelve new “subclasses” of real property and gives counties express authority to impose different tax rates on each subclass. Although the bill allows each county to make its own decision about whether to impose differentiated tax rates, the Montgomery County Council opposes this bill because it makes a fundamental change to local taxing authority in isolation. Major changes to State law governing local property tax structures should only be considered in the context of a comprehensive evaluation of State and local government taxing authority and related policy matters. The bill also contributes to the perception that the State and County are not business friendly and conflicts with the County’s goals for economic development and expanding the County’s tax base. The Council respectfully requests that the House Ways and Means Committee give House Bill 1276 an unfavorable report.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee