



TESTIMONY
Maryland General Assembly
Environmental and Transportation Committee
In Opposition to HB176

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Feb. 2, 2022

Good afternoon, Chairman Clippinger and Vice Chairman Moon, Committee Members. The Montgomery County Renters Alliance is an alliance of more than 30 labor, community, religious, political and civic action organizations and thousands of renters. We are Maryland's first and only regional nonprofit dedicated exclusively to renter outreach, education, organizing and advocacy. We are a co-founder of Renters United Maryland.

The Renters Alliance strongly opposes HB 176 to increase service of process fees collected by sheriffs' departments.

Renters facing eviction are already struggling financially. To add to their burden by increasing service of process fees in order to secure their homes only moves the goal posts further away for those just hanging on financially. Further, while inappropriate at any time to raise such fees on the backs of struggling families, it is **unconscionable** for these fee increases to be even contemplated as we continue to see more than 100,000 renters still in rent arrears in our state, with many thousands more still struggling to recover from the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.

We urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report.

Thank you

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