

Deirdre Byrne
3914 Mertford St
Kensington, MD 20985

22 March 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB1027. This measure would remove our ability as taxpayers and residents to object to low valuations within our own communities. This will negatively affect our town, our county and our state.

This particular bill was drafted by a lobbyist hired by the self-storage company operating at self 3700 Plyers Mill Rd, Kensington. While the property was assessed at \$21 million, it sold for \$76 million. It seems clear to anyone with a grain of sense that the assessed value should equal the sale price—it's not even in the same ballpark!

Depriving us of the ability to protest the assessment and call for a re-evaluation deprives us of income we use to maintain and improve our town. The same is true on the county level. Should this bill be enacted, the Town of Kensington would potentially lose \$120,000 in revenue this year which represents about 5% of the real property tax base. Montgomery County would lose over \$600,000 in revenue. The State of Maryland would lose over \$100,000 in revenue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deirdre A. Byrne".

Deirdre A. Byrne