



City of Seat Pleasant

Economic Development Department

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: In Support of House Bill 231

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Seat Pleasant, it is my pleasure to offer my testimony in support of House Bill 231 – Housing Opportunities Made Equal.

Seat Pleasant: *A Smart City of Excellence* supports House Bill 231 as it expands protections by adding “source of income” as a class that cannot be discriminated against. The City of Seat Pleasant believes it essentially will help people who have housing vouchers find housing more easily and identify landlords who will accept the vouchers as payment.

The intent of this impactful legislation is to help areas become more diverse with respect to income and break up areas of concentrated poverty. As a small municipality with a 15.1% poverty rate, and four multi-family complexes that encompasses 464 units (all considered low to moderate income), we value initiatives that ensure our residents in need have the rights and benefits to fair housing and are protected against the discriminations of presumption and stereotypes.

The City of Seat Pleasant respectfully asks the committee to report favorably on House Bill 231 – Housing Opportunities Made Equal.

Respectfully,

David J. Smart
Programs Administrator
Seat Pleasant: *A Smart City of Excellence*