



City of Frostburg

W. Robert Flanigan
Mayor

February 19, 2020

Commissioners

Chairman Kumar Barve
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Donald L. Carter, Jr.
*Commissioner of
Finance*

RE: HB 203/SB 614 and SB 962

Dear Chairman Barve:

Kevin G. Grove
*Commissioner of
Public Safety*

Please accept this letter in response to proposed changes to the HB 203 Community Parks and Playgrounds program. Frostburg recently became aware of proposed legislation that would open Community Parks & Playgrounds (CP&P) funding to organizations other than municipalities. The City is strongly opposed to diverting Community Parks & Playgrounds funding to any group or organization other than municipalities due to the highly competitive nature of the program and the reduction in available funds since 2002. The CP&P program is an important resource for smaller municipalities and low to moderate income areas where the tax base does not support larger projects and improvements.

Nina Forsythe
*Commissioner of
Water, Parks and
Recreation*

Since its inception in 2002, the CP&P program has been directly responsible for over \$760,000 worth of improvements to the parks in the City of Frostburg. It has made significant contributions to our community by supporting the construction of the Glendening Recreation Complex, the renovation and reopening Frostburg Community Park Pool, playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, and park restroom and concession buildings. Had the program been open to any organization in the state and not just municipalities, it is highly unlikely that any of these projects could have been completed. The CP&P funding is especially crucial as a source of matching funds for other Federal, State, and County sources such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Program Open Space (POS).

Adam Ritchey
*Commissioner of
Public Works*

The CP&P program is a successful and worthwhile program because it focuses on municipalities. Many similar programs are already offered on a State or County basis and available to non-municipalities. For example, POS is State money provided to County governments, who then decide how the money is dispersed. By significantly increasing the number of eligible recipients, you would significantly increase the competition for funding and decrease the number of municipalities receiving much needed funding. The program works as it was intended to and the City of Frostburg is one of the many success stories for the program. Please allow those success stories for municipalities to continue. We ask for your support in opposing this legislation and continue allowing the funding to be allocated only to municipalities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Stahlman
City Administrator

Sincerely,



W. Robert Flanigan