

TOWN OF KEEDYSVILLE, MARYLAND

"Where Northern Thrift and Personality Blend with Southern Charm and Hospitality"

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Ken Lord, Mayor
Barry Levey, Assistant Mayor
Gina Ellis, Council Member
Judy Kerns, Council Member
Matthew Hull, Council Member

February 20, 2019

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

Re: HB 203/SB 614 & SB 962

Chairman Barve,


The Town of Keedysville is greatly opposed to the above referenced bills. The funds available through the Community Parks and Playgrounds program and Program Open Space (POS) have been available only to the municipalities of Maryland since 2010.

Over the past ten years, these funds have enabled the Town of Keedysville to provide a beautiful playground for the children and to replace the roofs on the pavilions in Taylor Park, our town park. Taylor Park is known locally to be one of the nicest in the area. Without the grant funds awarded to the town, the playground equipment and the roofs would not have been possible. Also, the town recently acquired a piece of property along Little Antietam Creek, which runs through the center of town, that it would like to develop as additional park land for picnicking and fishing. We will be applying for grant funding through POS to develop this site for the local community. If this bill passes, the possibility of the town receiving this funding will greatly diminish.

To allow Howard & Baltimore Counties to access the limited amount of POS funding will greatly diminish funding opportunities for Keedysville and all other municipalities in the state. Both Howard County, number two on the American Community Survey list of highest median household incomes in the country and Baltimore County, have much greater resources than our small town, due to their comparatively huge tax bases.

Again, the Town of Keedysville strongly urges you to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,



Ken Lord, Mayor