



Town of Emmitsburg

Mayor Donald N. Briggs

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February 19, 2020

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

RE: Opposition to HB 203/SB 614 and SB 962

Dear Chairman Kumar Barve,

On behalf of the citizens and Board of Commissioners for the Town of Emmitsburg in northern Frederick County, I am writing to express our municipalities strong opposition to HB 203/SB 614 and SB 962 regarding the changes to the Community Parks and Playgrounds (CP&P) grant program.

The CP&P grant program has been a municipality-only grant program since 2010 and is funded at only \$2.5 million a year. With numerous municipalities in the State of Maryland funds are already competitive. Allowing Baltimore County and Howard County, two large and wealthy counties, to access this small amount of funding could decimate what little parks and recreation monies municipalities currently have available through this over-subscribed grant program.

The Town of Emmitsburg relies heavily on the CP&P program to provide recreational opportunities to our 3,000 residents. Our municipality has been able to complete the following projects because of grant money received from CP&P in the past:

- Construction of a paved half-mile fitness walking trail (FY2013)
- Rehabilitation of the Community Park basketball and tennis courts (FY2015)
- Construction of a new playground in Emmit Gardens (FY2016)
- Full renovation of our Community Park Swimming Pool from 1975 (FY2017)
- Construction of a new disc golf course (FY2020)

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If it was not for these CP&P funds and their allocation to small municipalities, these projects could not have occurred. Again, on behalf of the Town of Emmitsburg, I am urging the House of Representatives and Senate to not pass HB 203/SB 614 and SB 962.

If you should have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (240-877-4664) or mayorbriggs@emmitsburgmd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Briggs", written over the printed name.

Donald N. Briggs
Mayor