



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

The White Marlin Capital of the World

February 20, 2020

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

Dear Chairman Barve,

I encourage you to not support HB203 and continue to support the Community Parks and Playgrounds as a municipal-only grant program. The inclusion of county eligibility will dilute the opportunity for municipalities, like Ocean City, to obtain this critical funding for recreational amenities.

Since the program's inception in 2002, the Town of Ocean City has been able to enhance its park system with playgrounds, tennis courts, and other park improvements that would not have been possible without the award of the Community Parks and Playgrounds grant funding.

2002	\$ 53,000	Addition of a playground at Northside Park
2005	\$ 80,500	Addition of a playground at Gorman Park
2007	\$ 65,000	Little Salisbury Park Tennis Court Renovation
2008	\$154,000	Fiesta Park ADA Pavilion and Restrooms
2010	\$ 80,000	North Surf ADA Park Playground
2011	\$ 75,000	Robin Park ADA Playground upgrades
2013	\$119,000	Northside Park Exercise and Fitness area
2017	\$120,500	Boardwalk Playground
2018	\$115,000	Gorman Park Pickleball and Park upgrade

The Town of Ocean City's need for parks and other recreational amenities continues to grow as we not only need to provide quality amenities for our residents, but also for the influx of our property owners and vacationers. The Community Parks and Playgrounds program has been our only lifeline to help provide funding for these amenities, as Program Open Space funding received annually by our county is typically not shared with its municipalities.

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The Community Parks and Playgrounds program is already very competitive without being open to county applications. Its \$2.5 million budget is only able to support about 20 projects per year among those submitted from the eligible 157 cities and towns in our State. Please do not vote for legislation that will increase the competition in an already over-saturated applicant pool for a program that so many municipalities have come to rely upon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Meehan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Rick Meehan
Mayor, Town of Ocean City

cc: Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Delegate Wayne Hartman

