



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Ian Shaw, Mayor
Joe Cosentini, Town Manager
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February 19, 2020

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

RE: HB 203 – Community Parks and Playgrounds

Dear Chairman Barve,

On behalf of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Sykesville, I am contacting you today to express the Town's strong opposition to HB 203 affecting Community Parks and Playgrounds grants and its intent to allow non-municipal government agencies access to limited State resources for Community Parks and Playgrounds

Since 2002 the Town of Sykesville has been awarded Community Parks and Playground funds that have allowed us to enhance local parks that serve not only residents of Sykesville, but also our neighbors in Carroll and Howard counties. Projects include a linear trail connection, modern play structures, and our first splash pad to be completed this summer. The Town could not have made these capital investments without the State's assistance through these strategic funding sources. Cuts to this funding along with other cuts recently felt by Municipalities are and continue to be very devastating to our small budgets. Allowing non-municipal entities access to these funds will greatly reduce the overall impact the State's investment in local parks and playgrounds for our families, unless additional funds are added to the grant program which we know is not likely.

Please consider this as the Committee discusses the proposed bill. We are confident that you will make the right decision for what is best of all of Maryland and its incorporated municipalities.

Sincerely and respectfully, I thank you for taking your time to read our concerns.

Ian Shaw
Mayor
Town of Sykesville