

**HB 791- Housing Opportunities Commission- Procurement
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
Environment and Transportation Committee
Favorable**

TO: Hon. Kumar Barve, Chair and members of the Environment and
Transportation Committee

From: Gino Renne, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO

Good afternoon Chairman Barve and members of the Environment and
Transportation Committee,

HB791 Housing Opportunities Commission- Procurement would require the
Commission to adopt procurement provisions that conform to the Montgomery
County Code for purchases not regulated by the federal procurement regulations.
On behalf of our 8,000 members including over 200 HOC employees, we ask you
to support this legislation.

An internally controlled procurement process does not provide the appropriate
checks and balances for an agency as important as HOC.

The State's Attorney Office, the Sheriff's Office and others non-County entities are
required to follow the County's regulations. The absence of external regulation
and oversight by a body that is accountable to the public makes the procurement
process vulnerable to improprieties.

This legislation is intended to protect the public funding that low and moderate
income Montgomery County residents depend on to meet basic housing needs.
The delegation amendments provide the appropriate balance between the
flexibility the Commission has requested and interest of public accountability. On
behalf of the members of UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO, we ask for a **favorable**
report.