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Budget and Taxation Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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Testimony for Senate Bill 176
Wicomico County - Landlord and Tenant - Repossession for Failure to Pay Rent - Procedures
Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 28, 2020

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 176: Wicomico County - Landlord and Tenant - Repossession for Failure to Pay Rent – Procedures. SB 176, as a request from Wicomico County, alters eviction procedures within the County. This legislation gives renters an advanced 14 day notice that they must remove their belongings from the property.

Current law requires that property must be removed from the premises before an eviction can be completed. Sheriff's deputies are required to remain on premises during the eviction process. This property is often left in the street, blocking sidewalks and traffic. This presents major problems within Wicomico County and burdens local law enforcement resources. SB 176 gives advanced notice to renters to remove their property and prevent these issues.

SB 176 will reduce blight in our communities, will give renters time to remove their property, and will free up law enforcement resources in Wicomico County. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 176. Thank you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie Eckardt".

Senator Addie Eckardt