



City of  
**Salisbury**  
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

January 21, 2020

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.  
2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chairman Smith:

Please accept this letter as my given support of state legislation HB 227 and SB 176 recently proposed by the Salisbury Area Property Owners Association via Delegate Carl Anderton and Senator Adelaide Eckardt. The legislation in question will authorize an alternative procedure for Wicomico County evictions, reducing the amount of tenant property left in public view and access.

Current eviction procedures require that all remaining property of the tenant be removed and placed in the front yard or curbside where it must remain for 48 hours. This property, often comprised of furniture and personal belongings is then subject to all outside forces including weather, wildlife, vandals, looters, and all passersby.

The result is most often a scattered pile of debris and rubbish that becomes a health and safety concern as well as a sign of blight and deterioration. Subsequently police and code enforcement resources are tasked with addressing those issues.

The proposed revision prohibits the placing of the property curbside eliminating much of the need for police and code enforcement intervention. At the same time this legislation is protective of the rights of the landlord and the tenants involved.

My office, which handles code enforcement for the City of Salisbury, the largest municipality in Wicomico County, supports this initiative.

Thank you for your tireless commitment to the City of Salisbury, and thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Everett Howard  
Director of Housing and Community Development Department