

**SB 987, Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 (Support)  
And  
HB 2056, Racing and Community Development Act of 2020 (Support  
with Amendments)**

**Testimony for February 25, 2020  
Joan Glynn**

Senate Bill 987 and House Bill 1056 would authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$375,000,000 of bonds for the redevelopment of the Laurel Park and Pimlico racing facilities. I support the provisions of these bills to improve both Laurel Park and Pimlico. However, there is a third property, the Bowie Training Facility, that must be dealt with in this legislation.

The Bowie Training Facility opened to horse racing in 1914. The property plays an important part in the history of our City and the history of horse racing in Maryland. Sadly, the training facility was closed in 2015 and has been all but abandoned since that time.

The Senate bill calls for the Bowie Training Facility to be transferred to MNCPPC and the City of Bowie for recreational uses. Under the Senate bill, the City of Bowie would be required to enter into an agreement with Bowie State for the joint use of the recreational facilities to be built on the property. The transfer and use of the property as provided for in the Senate bill has the strong support of the citizens of Bowie as many expressed a desire for recreational facilities at a public forum held in January.

The House bill only goes so far as to set up a task force to determine the future of the Bowie Training Facility. Placing the future of this important property in further limbo is an injustice to the citizens of Prince George's County and the City of Bowie. Use of this property for anything other than recreation will be strongly opposed by the citizens of Bowie and, anything other than recreational uses, would be incompatible with the surrounding residential areas and with the natural resources of the adjacent Patuxent River. Again, both the Senate bill and the House Bill authorize \$375 million for redevelopment of Laurel Park and Pimlico, while the Bowie race track sits vacant.

I urge you to adopt the amendments to HB 1056 as proposed by Delegate Marvin Holmes, Delegate Ron Watson and Delegate Valentino-Smith. These amendments would mirror the provisions of the Senate bill as they relate to the Bowie Training Facility. It is extremely rare that a community has the opportunity to acquire land of this type for recreational uses. Senate Bill 987 and the amendments to House Bill 1056 would allow the City of Bowie to move forward with the planning and implementation of recreational uses at the Bowie Training Facility creating an immense public benefit for the citizens of Bowie, the citizens of Prince George's County, as well as the students at Bowie State. Again, I urge you to adopt the amendments to HB 1056.

Thank you for your time.