

John Cabala
15019 Running Park Ct
Bowie, MD 20715
HB 1056
Favorable with Amendment

Good afternoon distinguished representatives, and thank you very much for hearing my testimony. My name is John Cabala. I'm a proud resident of Bowie, and I've lived there for 15 years. I grew up in Prince Georges' County and graduated from University of Maryland. I also graduated from their ROTC program, and served over 20 years in the Air Force. I'm a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, including Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and I wrapped up my career during Operation Enduring Freedom. After retiring from the military, I became active in my community. I did this because I care about it and I saw how the uncontrolled growth started changing our town. I chose to live in Bowie because it was a beautiful, quiet town with little crime, lots of parks and green space, and minimal traffic, but unfortunately, the increasing development and traffic is making our community less inviting and more dangerous, and I'm also concerned about my property value if this trend continues. I live right next to the Bowie Training Center, and I spent my life's savings on the down deposit for my house...so please understand why I do not support any changes that further increase development and traffic near my community.

Regarding House Bill 1056, I am only favorable if the bill is amended with language to require the land to only go to the City of Bowie and the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission, as currently worded in the Senate Bill 987, which I support. I am firmly against the House Bill's creation of a new Task Force, which requires even more public meetings and hearings through September. The residents of Bowie, and I have already spent countless hours of our lives writing letters and emails and attending public meetings. Our position has been well documented at these hearings, and our unanimous position is simply, No More Development!

I also agree with the development restrictions in the Senate Bill that limit land use to open and green space, and development to only one 50,000-square-foot structure, such as a gym. I also agree with the Senate Bill's language allowing the city of Bowie to enter joint-use agreements for athletic uses with Bowie State University.

In summary, I request the House to please amend House Bill 1056 to give the land only to the City of Bowie and the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission, limit land use to open and green space, development to only one 50,000-square-foot structure, allow the City of Bowie to enter joint-use agreements for athletic uses with Bowie State University, and lastly, please remove the Task Force.

Lastly, I want to say a special thanks to Senator Peters, Delegate Geraldine Valentino Smith, Bowie Council Member Michael Estève, and the Bowie City Mayor, Tim Adams for their leadership, and for taking their time to learn and fight for our concerns.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

John Cabala