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The Maryland House of Delegates
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**Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1544 -
Ban on Developer Contributions
Before the House Ways and Means Committee
February 27, 2020**

House Bill 1544 would ban developer contributions to county executives and county council members statewide in charter counties.

Currently there is a patchwork of rules governing developer contributions to county elected officials. The goal of HB1544 is to make these rules stronger and more consistent.

It adapts the Prince George's County rules to all charter counties.

Since the Maryland General Assembly granted counties the authority for public financing of local races, the need to rely on developer contributions to be elected has lessened. Several jurisdictions have enacted public financing. During the 2018 primary and general elections, in Montgomery County, the winning county executive candidate utilized public financing as did several winning county council candidates.

I ask for your favorable report.