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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 10, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support of HB1044; Washington County – Business Licenses – Zoning Certification Requirement

Dear Delegate Davis:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, by a vote of 3-2, supports House Bill 1044. It would require applicants for a business license in Washington County to submit certification that the business constitutes a permitted use in the zoning district for which the business is proposed.

The cost to a business license applicant of obtaining a certification of a permitted use is minimal and is a clear case of an ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of cure. The proposed change to the Business Regulation Article would protect applicants for a business license from investing significant time and money into new businesses, only to find out after the fact that the aspiring business is prohibited by the zoning ordinance in the location proposed. The change would also eliminate needless zoning enforcement proceedings which could have easily been avoided by not sanctioning a prohibited use in the first place. The bill protects small businesses and at the same time reduces inefficient expenditure of enforcement resources.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County respectfully urges the Committee to approve HB1044.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 
Jeffrey A. Cline, President