

The Maryland House of Delegates
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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chairman House Environment and Transportation Committee Members of the Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB 1229 - Request for a favorable opinion

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to present, HB 1229 which modernizes our public ethics filing system for local officials by allowing electronic filing. This bill is long over-due and will promote efficiency and transparency. Moreover, with the inclusion of electronic filing of financial disclosures, local governments will be able to respond quickly to inquiries from the public and the board of elections to certify candidacy when requested.

Passage of this bill is in the public best interest. HB 1229 will help address potential issues of conflict of interest in advance and support confidence in unbiased decision making. I ask for your favorable report on HB 1229.

Sincerely.

Mary Ann Lisant