

Written Testimony of Henry S. Cole, Ph.D. in opposition to HB980.

I am writing to urge members of the Committee to vote against HB980, the Prince George's County's attempt to avoid its ethical responsibilities to act in the public interest—not in the interest of their campaign funds or developers. We have seen repeated occasions where the County's elected officials have accepted donations from developers and voted to give them zoning amendments which allow land uses that remove vital rural areas, discourage smart growth and expanding public transit, add to automobile traffic and their greenhouse gas emissions. HB980 provides a loophole that will perpetuate such actions and must be stopped in its tracks.

This bill may encourage other counties and their legislators to follow suit.

Thank you for your kind consideration, and for upholding standards of ethical practices for the public servants in Prince George's County.

Henry S. Cole, Ph.D. Co-Chair, Clean Air Prince George's and Board Member of Patuxent Riverkeeper and the Greater Baden Aquasco Citizens Association.

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