

HB 543 Senate Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

MIKE MCKAY
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Allegany and Washington Counties

Appropriations Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 31, 2022

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Vice Chair Kagen and the Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

My name is Delegate Mike McKay and it is my pleasure to present HB543 Town of Hancock – Urban Renewal Authority. This grants the Town of Hancock in Washington County the authority to exercise urban renewal powers in areas zoned for commercial use for blight clearance and redevelopment under Article III, Section 61 of the Maryland Constitution. Unemployment, poverty, shortages of affordable housing, health epidemics, and transportation problems often accompany physical decay in modern towns.

Attempts to relieve these social problems through the maintenance, rehabilitation, and rebuilding of the physical environment are known as urban redevelopment. The Mayor and Town Council believe and I do as well this tool is necessary to return the downtown to its glory through economic revival.

Thank you, I urge a favorable report.

Delegate Mike McKay

Serving Allegany and Washington Counties

HB 543 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tim Smith

Position: FAV



Town of Hancock
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Hancock, Maryland 21750
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Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

My name is Mayor Tim Smith of the Town of Hancock. I am writing on behalf of the Town Council to voice our support for House Bill 543. The bill would authorize the Town to create a redevelopment authority to clear blighted areas and improve our Town. Hancock would join a long list of municipalities in the State who have taken a similar approach. We believe this would provide a much-needed boost for our Town. With new Federal and State funding, Hancock has a bright path forward. However, we want to spend this money in ways that truly invest in the infrastructure of our Town so that we are setting up future generations of Hancock for success. We believe now is the right time for this Authority.

Record numbers of visitors are using the C & O Canal trail system that passes through town. And we are dedicated to maintaining strong relationships with the National Park Service and Department of Natural Resources. Our outdoors tourism is one of Hancock's best assets, and we are dedicated to improving the Town's infrastructure to match. With a Redevelopment Authority, the Town will focus on preserving our historic Main Street while encouraging smart growth in our downtown core.

We look forward to working with the State closely on implementing these and other projects in the future to help the Town of Hancock grow. Thank you for your time and we request a favorable report on House Bill 543.

*Mayor
Tim W. Smith*