

HB 543
Mayor Tim Smith
Testimony

Good morning Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Mayor Tim Smith of the Town of Hancock, and I am here in support of 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.