

**HB1433\_PGCEX\_FAV Testimony.pdf**

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# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 1433 - State Highways – Designations – Piscataway Highway

**SPONSOR:** Delegates Walker, T. Branch, Turner, and Valderrama

**HEARING DATE:** March 11, 2022

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1433 - State Highways – Designations – Piscataway Highway**, that will designate Maryland Route 210 as the Piscataway Highway.

Maryland Route 210, called Indian Head Highway, was termed during a time of insensitivity towards the Native American tribes that lived and continue to be apart of our communities, here in Maryland. As we rethink and reimagine what inclusion looks like across, not only the State, but the Country, correcting the errors of the past is a necessary step in building stronger relationships and ensuring that our naming conventions are respectful of all of our diverse groups in our State.

We understand that members of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe are supportive of renaming Indian Head Highway to Piscataway Highway, and we believe the retitling of this road on lands that were historically used by the Piscataway and surrounding tribes serves as a way to pay tribute and respect to those tribes native to our communities, instead of its current derogatory nomenclature.

This has been a fight by many Native American groups for years to rename this highway, and this is a legislative solution that follows many other bills to rename state roads in Maryland, similar to the renaming of the Nice Bridge in Southern Maryland to the Nice-Middleton Bridge. This change is one that respects and honors these native tribes and is a meaningful step to ensure we are correcting the mistakes of the past.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1433** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **HB1433 - OPCP - Highway Designations - Piscataway**

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Position: INFO



Larry Hogan  
Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor  
James F. Ports, Jr.  
Secretary

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 1433 – State Highways – Designations – Piscataway Highway**

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1433 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 1433 proposes requiring the MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) to designate MD 210 as the Piscataway Highway. MD 210, known as Indian Head Highway, runs 20.86 miles from Potomac Avenue in the town of Indian Head, Maryland to the District of Columbia boundary in Forest Heights, Maryland. The road was named for the town of Indian Head, Maryland, where the highway begins at the Indian Head Naval Support Facility.

The MDOT has an established policy and procedure for roadway dedication or naming. Upon receipt of a dedication, naming or renaming request, the Maryland Department of Transportation gathers the appropriate information to present to the Maryland Transportation Commission (MTC). Such requests should include statements of support from local elected officials and state legislators, as well as statements showing broad community support. Upon review, the MTC then submits the request to the Secretary of Transportation for a decision.

House Bill 1433 does not clarify the exact meaning of "designate," but the potential renaming of a State highway or any public road poses challenges and costs including: reprinting of maps, replacing signs along and beyond the immediate highway area, changing mailing addresses, difficulty in locating an emergency 911 services call based on an older road name, upgrading emergency and other government mapping systems, and confusion and potential costs with legal or real estate documents that reference a road name that no longer exists. For these reasons, the MDOT SHA recommends the dedication process for a roadway or facility, as it visibly honors the requested individual, group, or entity with the appropriate signage and avoids the concerns enumerated above.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1433.

Respectfully submitted,

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