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February 23, 2023

MR Ryan Nawrocki
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street Room 322
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Ryan Nawrocki

I am writing you in support of HB1096 Baltimore County Fire Department Property Tax. As a tax payer and a 28-year Baltimore County Volunteer Firefighter, I feel this is common sense legislation. The savings provided to the Volunteer fire companies of Baltimore County far outweighs the value from the collected taxes.

The volunteer fire companies of Baltimore County provide and incredible benefit to Baltimore County and the State of Maryland both in services provided and tax dollars saved. Many of the fire companies of Baltimore County have plans for future expansion due to county growth, increased call volume, and the simple need to accommodate modern firefighting, rescue and EMS service. Currently volunteer fire companies and rescue squads are recognized as non-profit 501(c)3 organizations, and as a result they receive the benefit of not paying sales tax or paying property tax on the land where their buildings are located; however, the additional properties that volunteer fire companies and rescue squads own still are charged tax. It is important that we extend this proposed additional credit to these organizations as a whole to be exempt from paying property tax on all additional properties; rather than only offering the credit to the land where the buildings currently reside.

The monies saved to Baltimore County volunteer fire companies will ultimately be invested back into fire company operations, weather it goes towards new apparats, EMS equipment, or the expansion / reconstruction of a fire station it is an investment into the Baltimore County Volunteer Fire Service and the citizens of Baltimore County and those the visit and travel through.

This proposed legislation is simply common sense and ultimately benefits everyone. I thank you for the legislation introduction and I encourage all of the Baltimore County delegation to support it.

Sincerely

Robert Kevin Hornbacher

Robert K. Hornbacher