

Susan M. Bollinger
President Baltimore County Volunteer Firefighter's Association
5502 Weywood Drive
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Delegate Ryan Nawrocki
District 7A – Baltimore County
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street Room 322
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 29, 2023

Re: House Bill 1096

Dear Delegate Nawrocki:

I am a 40 year member of the Baltimore County Volunteer Fire System and the current president of the Baltimore County Volunteer Firefighters Association. I am writing to express my total support of House Bill 1096 which would eliminate the tax on ALL parcels owned by Baltimore County Volunteer Fire Companies that are used to support their present or future mission. I am unavailable to testify in person or on zoom due to conflicts with my regular job schedule but wanted to express the importance of this bill to the member companies of Baltimore County

Member companies currently are exempt from taxes on the parcel that houses their equipment used for emergency operations. Some companies, however, own additional parcels for future expansion or fund-raising needs. Many buy or acquire a parcel for future expansion and then begin the long process of getting approval, raising funds, planning, development etc. for future expansion. Taxing these parcels during this lengthy process creates an additional burden on these companies. Although we are extremely grateful for all the assistance that we get from both the state and local leaders we do not get or expect them to cover all of our expenses. All companies have to do some form of solicitation or fund raising in order to bridge that gap. Again, a few companies have additional parcels that they use to conduct fund raising to support their mission. Taxing these parcels only creates an additional need for fundraising to cover these expenses. Our members spend numerus hours away from their families training, responding to calls, maintaining buildings and equipment and fund raising. Any support we can give them to spend more time on the mission and less on raising funds is greatly appreciated. For these reasons I support this bill 100%. It will have great impacts on the companies with negligible impact on the budget. Thank you for your continued support of the Volunteer service and let me know if you need any additional information on this matter.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Bollinger,
President Baltimore County Volunteer Firefighters Association