

To the Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am a resident of District 23, a member of Anne Arundel Connecting Together working in conjunction with Action in Montgomery, and the Mission Elder at Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church in Odenton. I am asking you to support [House Bill 852](#), Expedited Development Review Processes for Affordable Housing - Applications to Religious Organizations.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in innumerable issues for families across our state, including extreme rent increases, a lack of affordable housing, and an increase in homelessness. In short, **we are in the midst of a housing crisis**. We recognize that religious organizations are on the front line of this crisis, helping their communities and responding to the needs of their members. Some religious organizations are even thinking about building affordable housing on their property. HB 852 would give those organizations a helping hand; it would instruct county and local governments to **include such projects in any of their expedited review processes**. Passing this bill not only adds to the affordable housing stock but provides an opportunity for religious organizations to leverage land use to strengthen communities in their respective county.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Lori Kronser
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