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March 3, 2023

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1174

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

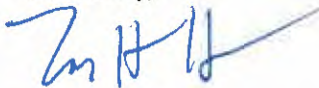
I write in support of HB 1174 and urge a favorable recommendation from your Committee.

The bill permits me, the Calvert County State's Attorney, to delegate authority to prosecute certain county or municipal violations to the Office of the County Attorney. This authority will relieve the State's Attorney's Office of the obligation to handle these cases and allow me to concentrate my limited resources on violations of State criminal and motor vehicle laws.

The municipal infractions in question are filed in the District Court. According to the Maryland Judiciary Statistical Abstract, my five staff attorneys assigned to the District Court handled 2,851 criminal cases and 569 DUI cases in FY 2021. This averages out to 684 cases per attorney per year, which I think is a significant caseload.

The proposed legislation would permit my attorneys to focus on this caseload, while allowing the County Attorney to handle municipal infractions, an area wherein the County Attorney has expertise. I respectfully request the Judiciary Committee to make a favorable recommendation for HB 1174.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Harvey, Jr.
State's Attorney