



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 43: Maryland Historical Trust - Disputes**

Chairman Guzzone and esteemed members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Senate Bill 43, a crucial initiative aimed at ensuring the positive impact of protecting historic sites and properties in the state of Maryland through arbitration. This measure plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the beautiful history of our state.

Senate Bill 43 proposes authorizing arbitration for disputes regarding certain applications for a permit, grant, tax credit, or authorization for a change or alteration of property subject to a historic easement. This requirement is indispensable for ensuring the protection of historic sites in all parts of Maryland.

Arbitration is a consensual, neutral, and confidential procedure that produces a final decision that is easily enforceable and less expensive than a judicial proceeding. Arbitration is beneficial to all parties involved within the Maryland Historical Trust.

This method not only protects and sustains cultural heritage but also fosters economic development, enabling communities (and individuals) to respond to changes from social to economic in a confidential and consensual manner. Decisions made through arbitration are easily enforceable and generally agreeable to all parties.

Historic sites in Maryland possess a rich history and traditions that celebrate our state's achievements and resilience. These sites create a sense of connectedness between Maryland

constituents and their state, as well as among the citizens of our lovely state.

Arbitration is renowned for providing a cost-effective, enforceable agreement between parties, and it brings predictability within a contract. Authorizing the Maryland Historical Trust to use arbitration to resolve disputes helps protect the classical assets of our prepossessing state. A sense of community is developed through the preservation of historical sites.

The history of our state is diverse and encompasses a wide range of cultures that connect to their own history through Maryland's historical sites. This bill seeks to add to the richness of that history and foster a sense of importance for Maryland's historical sites.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 43.

Respectfully,



Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District – MD