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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am Professor of Politics at New York University and author of three books in which approval voting (AV) and its applications are analyzed and compared with other voting systems: (1) *The Presidential Election Game*, (2) *Approval Voting*, and (3) *Mathematics and Democracy: Designing Better Voting and Fair-Division Systems*. For more on my writing and research, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Brams.

I consider AV the simplest and most practical of all voting systems. It is also theoretically the most robust, not vulnerable to paradoxes that ranking systems—notably, ranked choice voting (RCV)—are. Although RCV has been adopted in several cities and two states, it has also been repealed in many, wherein the winners were not majority choices—they would have been beaten in one-on-one contest by one or more of their opponents. RCV is also opaque—many voters do not understand the consequences of their choices under it and make mistakes in filling out their ballots.

By contrast, AV has been successfully used in St. Louis, MO, and Fargo, ND, wherein it has elected broad, consensus candidates. For decades it has been used in academic and professional societies (the two major mathematics associations in the United States, each with about 30,000 members) and by the College of Cardinals to elect popes since the 13th century.

I enthusiastically urge you to enact approval voting in Maryland.

Sincerely yours,

Steven J. Brams