



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association of 27 Municipalities



March 29, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chairman
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support for SB522 - Charter Counties - Enforcement of Local Laws

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We write on behalf of the 27 municipalities that make up the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which collectively represents more than 955,000 residents, to share our support of SB522.

SB522 - Charter Counties - Enforcement of Local Laws would increase the maximum civil and criminal fine allowable for a County to enforce local laws from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Raising the amount of allowable fines follows the rate of inflation, and allows for more effective enforcement and deterrence by local governments.

Our communities in Prince George's County deserve a reasonable standard of cleanliness and safety. Unfortunately, many of our municipalities are dealing with individuals and businesses who are repeat violators of illegal trash dumping, illegal house parties, and other violations that bring down the quality of living in a community. For many repeat offenders, the current fine of \$1,000 is not a sufficient deterrent or behavior changer; for some it is seen as part of the cost of doing business. Providing the County with a better tool for enforcing local laws, and upholding the standards of our local communities. This legislation is also supported by the Prince George's County Council, and their partners at MACo.

It is for these reasons and more that PGCMA respectfully requests the Committee's support of SB522.

Sincerely,

Melinda Mendoza

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PGCMA President

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