

HB 0216 – Support

Catherine Whitelock

Hearthstone at Village Crest
Condominiums

cathy@whitelockhome.net

410-203-1370

HB 0216 SUPPORT

Condos – Common Elements – Clean – Energy – Requirements

Energy and Transportation Committee

January 30th, 2024

Dear Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of the Energy and Transportation Committee:

The Hearthstone at Village Crest Condominiums Board of Directors supports the legislation proposed in HB 0216 which would allow the Board of Directors of a condominium association to reach agreements with utility companies in order to bring clean energy resources to common areas. We are a community of 220 Garden Style Apartments for adults 55 and older.

HB 0216 would allow us to make arrangements with the electric utility company to bring electric vehicle charging stations to our community. We have met with the utility company previously and plans were developed in coordination with funding through Howard County's clean energy initiative. However, we were required to allocate six parking spaces to be dedicated to the use of electric vehicles in order to proceed with the planned installation of the three charging stations. When we attempted to do this, our lawyers advised that our Governing Documents required us to obtain 100% of owner approval, as all of our parking is considered common area, owned by all. This requirement is unattainable.

The passing of HB 0216 would allow the Condominium's Board of Directors to enter into an agreement with the utility granting them right of way and use of the six parking spaces required to install three charging stations. The funding for implementing the accessibility of electric vehicle charging stations is not limitless. As a community of older citizens, many on fixed incomes, the supplemental funding for this emerging technology will enable us to proceed. Therefore, it is imperative we be able to make agreements with utility companies in order to move forward and take advantage of the funding available at this time.

I strongly urge a favorable vote for HB 0216

Catherine Whitelock

President Hearthstone at Village Crest Board of Directors

