

To: Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0961
Commissioned Public Art - Artist Rights

My name is David Hess. I am a Maryland-based sculptor living in Phoenix, Maryland 21131 and I vote in all elections.

I offer my 100% support for Bill HB0961 and encourage you to vote YES!

Over the course of my 37-year career, I have been fortunate enough to receive over two dozen public art commissions in the Mid-Atlantic, and this is an extremely important issue for me.

Public Artworks commissioned by the State, evolve from a lengthy process of design, review and collaboration between community stakeholders, architects and engineers. The end results produce beloved "Placemaking" moments and iconic markers for a community. These pieces create emotional touchstones and social connectivity for the folks that see them every day.

Artists should not be asked to waive their copyright or other protection rights. The integrity and intellectual ownership of the work is of the utmost importance. Ensuring protection of the artist's original intent and ensuring that any action does not adversely compromise a public art piece is not only in the best interest of the artist but in the best interest of the public.

Thank you for your consideration and support for HB0961

David Hess

14415 Cooper Road Phoenix, MD 21131 410-446-7920