

KEVIN B. HORNBERGER

Legislative District 35B
Cecil County

DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

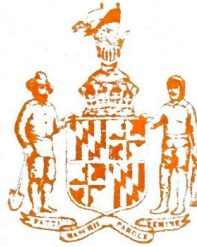
Subcommittees

Education

Local Revenues

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Chair, Cecil County House Delegation



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February 7th, 2025

I am writing you today in strong opposition of SB477, Port of Deposit State Historical Park - Size and Scope Sponsored by the Cecil County Senators and set for a hearing date in your committee of February 11th. As written, the bill significantly decreases the acreage of the Port of Deposit State Park and further delays the land transfer from the Bainbridge Development Corporation to the Department of Natural Resources.

Serving as a task force member spanning both administrations and assisting the original authoring of the Great Maryland Outdoors Act SB541 of 2022 it is my, along with the Advisory Committee, belief that SB477 would take historically significant Chesapeake Bay Critical zone property and designate it for private development. Removal of the Tome School property opens the historic bluff and accompanying Frederick Law Olmsted Garden to private development. As a riparian buffer for a town, hampered by frequent flooding and a breeding ground for the endangered map turtle, we believe the appropriate custodian for this property is the DNR. The General Assembly concurred, voting on two separate occasions 2022 & 2024 for the park's creation. The complex and profound history of this property will serve as an inspirational light for future generations. What better custodian than our DNR? This property is primed for greatness.

The proposed 90% acreage reduction removes publicly accessible recreational open space from our local communities.

For over 25 years this remarkable state-owned property has sat idle and inaccessible by the public. Over the interim we worked diligently along with various stakeholders to come up with solutions of how best to transfer this iconic property. **Unfortunately, this bill does not represent the spirit of that report or the desires of the diverse workgroup.**

Amending SB477 to reflect recommendations gleaned from the final report (Attachment 1) and additional funding is an option worth consideration. I have attached the final report issued by the DNR for your review along with a map (Attachment 2) outlining the parcel and its adjacency to the Susquehanna River. Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill, along with so many other pieces of legislation. Should you have any questions my cell phone number is listed below.

Kevin Hornberger

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KH", written over a horizontal line.

Chair, Cecil County Delegation

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