



Cecil County Branch
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
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To: Chair Delegate Korman
And Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Cecil County Branch of the NAACP

Date: February 26, 2025

Subject: In Favor of HB1184

This letter serves as an official notification of support for HB-1184 from the Cecil County Branch of the NAACP. We are writing to urge your support for HB-1184, a bill that takes a targeted and strategic approach to preserving Snow Hill, one of Maryland's earliest free Black communities.

As members of the Branch and registered voters throughout the county, we care deeply about preserving Maryland's Black history, and believe this bill is a smart, necessary step to ensure this vital piece of our state's past and it should be properly recognized and protected.

By narrowing the project's scope, HB-1184 allows the state to efficiently allocate its resources toward the historical and archaeological preservation of Snow Hill, while Port Deposit and the Bainbridge Development Corporation move forward with restoring the historic Tome School site using their secured funding. This streamlined approach ensures the preservation efforts can move forward more quickly and effectively.

This bill is about taking action now to safeguard Maryland's history before these sites deteriorate further. Snow Hill is not just a local story—it is a statewide treasure that deserves immediate attention.

In supporting this bill it will allow legislation to correct a pass wrong in preserving our history; will enable Cecil County to renew its previous reputation of racism – our goal is to eliminate it; educate ALL members of our community of the importance of our history no matter the color of the skin of those who created/lived it; and most importantly, to help our community to embrace our differences (that are less than our similarities) which will support healing and acceptance by all people.

We also believe it is passed time for our local Black History to be supported, embraced and shared and it can start with you; and it should start now!

We urge you to vote YES on HB-1184 to ensure that Snow Hill's legacy is protected, and that Maryland continues to lead in preserving Black history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elder Elyse L. Murray, MBA, MSMHRM
President – Cecil County Branch NAACP

NAACP MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.