

February 26,2025

We are writing to express our support for HB 1193, the Maryland Housing Data Transparency Act.

We are citizens and community leaders from across Montgomery County, either representing or being individual members of HomeOwners' Associations or civic groups in Olney, Silver Spring, Wheaton, Aspen Hill, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and along the River Road and Connecticut Avenue Corridors.

We have learned through our engagement with county and state governments that it is impossible to come up with good housing policy without a reliable and quantifiable dataset. At this point in time, the housing data that is used by both the state and the counties is often difficult to find and hard to understand. We often find that the basic data on housing and development is not standardized across the state and local levels. This often means that citizen participation in housing policy making, which is critical to the success of any proposed policy, is not transparent to the end user.

HB 1193 would take important steps towards remedying this situation. Standardizing data collection and display on both the state and county levels would make it easier for residents to access housing data, such as permitting, and would enable residents to provide informed input to policy makers. The knowledge that the data collected meets certain uniform standards will also ensure a high level of confidence in the numbers.

We strongly feel that General Assembly approval of HB 1193 will enable Maryland residents to be full and informed partners in developing housing policy.

We ask that you vote "Yes" on this much needed legislation.

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