



TOWN OF QUEENSTOWN

QUEENSTOWN COMMISSIONERS

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County Seat from
1708 to 1782

March 10, 2025

Delegate Steven J. Arentz
District 36
6 Bladen Street, Room 308
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Arentz and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Town Commissioners of Queenstown to express their full support for HB1236 concerning the ability to reduce speed limits on state roads in municipalities within Queen Anne's County. We have seen firsthand the direct impact that appropriate speed limits can have on the safety and well-being of our community.

The primary reason for supporting this bill is to enhance public safety. Our town experiences a diverse mix of traffic, including pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. By allowing local governments to set speed limits that reflect our unique needs, we can significantly reduce the risks of accidents and create a safer environment for all residents.

Following an accident in early 2023, when a vehicle was speeding and failed to negotiate a curve in our Town Center and crashed into our Town Hall, the Town Commissioners created a Speeding and Street Safety Task Force. The Task Force and Town Commissioners met with representatives from the State Highway Administration, as well as our town residents, looking at ways to improve the safety of our residents. Community input has consistently highlighted concerns regarding unsafe driving speeds in certain areas, particularly in our Town Center and near residential neighborhoods. HB1236 would empower us to take the necessary steps to address these concerns swiftly and effectively.

Moreover, appropriate speed regulation can improve local traffic flow and create a more manageable environment for drivers. Adjusting speed limits based on real-time community needs will contribute to smoother and safer travel throughout our towns.

Lastly, we believe that this legislation is a crucial step in supporting local municipalities by allowing us the flexibility to respond to our community's specific requirements. It demonstrates responsiveness to local needs, fostering a sense of trust and collaboration between the state and our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital legislation. The Town Commissioners of Queenstown wholeheartedly support HB1236 and look forward to seeing its positive effects in Queen Anne's County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alton L. Hardee, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alton Hardee, Jr.
President