

Chairman Korman and Committee Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee;

I am writing to urge support for HB-1184 to preserve Snow Hill, one of Maryland's earliest free Black communities. As a Black voter who was raised in Port Deposit and a descendent of William Griffin who was part of establishing the very first Black church of the Snow Hill community, I care very deeply about preserving Maryland's and Port Deposit's Black History.

It would also allow my ancestors and their descendants not to share an honorable site with Mr. Jacob Tome who built institutions that barred Colored students. I regularly traveled 23 miles one way twice a day past the Jacob Tome Schools to attend Elkton Colored School for 6 years. That's 6,180 days I traveled past "his" school, coming and going. Please do not put a memorial on the Snow Hill site honoring this man. Cecil County, nor Port Deposit, has ever considered anything for its colored citizens in the form of significant historical value. We are glad to finally be invited to the table and will see our ancestors being honored. I would like to give them an opportunity to address some of these wrongs. As a result of this neglect most of historical Black institutions have been abandoned. In closing I don't want Snow Hill Black community to be a window dressing for the Jacob Tome Institute. Please vote yes on HB-1184.



2/26/2025

Daniel Griffin for Alexander Griffin, James Griffin, Issac Griffin, Elmer Griffin