

Dear Delegate Riley, Jacobs, Arentz, Ghrist

I am 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 African American (Black) communities.

As a non-African American (Black) voter who does not live in Port Deposit but cares deeply about preserving Maryland's American (Black), I believe this bill is smart, necessary step to ensure this vital piece of our state's past is a 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 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 state wide treasure that deserves immediate attention.

I 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 African American (Black) history.

Sincerely,

Anita Brunke

Aberdeen, MD