



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 4, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Opposition to House Bill 751 – Municipalities – Annexed Land – Land Use  
and Density

Dear Delegate Korman,

We are writing to express our opposition to House Bill 751 – Municipalities – Annexed Land – Land Use and Density, which is currently under consideration in the Maryland House of Delegates. As an elected body we are invested in the well-being of our community and state and believe that this legislation is detrimental to cooperative planning efforts between counties and municipalities.

This bill seeks to dilute the ability of a county to have input related to the impacts of growth that will potentially affect its infrastructure and resources. Currently, annexation law requires a county and a municipality to compare the current and proposed zoning districts for the land seeking annexation. Adoption of this bill would create a highly subjective metric that creates confusion that is unnecessary and unproductive.

This bill attempts to make the comprehensive plan a regulatory document rather than a guidance document. Land use policy areas contained in comprehensive plans are generalized and do not specify permitted uses or residential densities. Implementation of these policies is achieved through the amendment of a local zoning ordinance. Zoning ordinances provide a more definitive, quantifiable and consistent metric to accurately compare the impacts of county vs. municipal zoning and its impact on our infrastructure and resources.

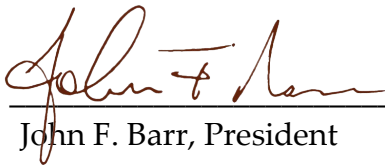
We are also concerned about the bill's impact on local infrastructure. Typically, land being annexed contains infrastructure owned and maintained by the county. More often than not, the municipality will not assume responsibility for the infrastructure being subsumed nor does it contribute to the future maintenance. Annexation also lowers a county's ability to collect property taxes due to differentials ceded to the municipality. Ultimately, this leads to a county having the same amount of responsibility for maintenance with less resources to serve all citizens of the county.

Based on these issues, we urge you not to support this bill. It will negatively affect relationships between counties and municipalities across the State and create unnecessary confusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns. If you have any questions or concerns, we are open and willing to have further discussion.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Washington County Delegation