

February 26, 2025

To: Chair Delegate Korman and Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Evelyn Griffin Jordan, Port Deposit

Re: In favor of HB 1184

History of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Port Deposit, Maryland

My name is Evelyn Griffin Jordan and my visit here today is to urge your support for HB 1184. This testimony is to preserve Snow Hill, one of Maryland's earlier free Black communities.

My great-great grandfather signed the Charter for Bethel A.M.E. Church in Port Deposit on March 15, 1911, as one of the Church Trustees. All the Griffin families and children attend the same church as their great-great grandfather.

As a Black voter, I was born and raised in Port Deposit. I attended Port Deposit Colored School, later named Freeman Hall, from grade one through six. After grade six, I was bused to the George Washington Colored High School in Elkton, Maryland.

I consider the Town of Port Deposit as my hometown. I still attend Bethel A.M.E. Church in Port Deposit every Sunday. I know that our ancestor's children and great grandchildren would love to know the history of their Black families.

I am in favor of HB 1184 and I hope I can count on the support of our Delegation to vote in favor of this legislation. Thank you.

Evelyn Griffin Jordan  
Port Deposit, Maryland