



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

March 12, 2025

By Electronic Mail

Delegate Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
marc.korman@house.state.md.us

RE: Support for House Bill 1525-Municipalities-Annexation-Limitations

Dear Delegate Korman,

As the County Administrator of Washington County, I fully support the passage of HB 1525. My support is based on the aggressive and irresponsible annexation attempts of a municipality within our own County. A larger municipality is on course to shut in two smaller municipalities, Funkstown and Williamsport.

This larger municipality is the primary public utility provider in Washington County for water service and uses public utilities as a forceful mechanism for annexing land when the municipality itself is unable to meet the growing needs of water supply and public safety within its current boundaries. Additionally, as a matter of policy, this larger municipality declines to provide water service unless a pre-annexation agreement is signed by the property owner regardless of the property's proximity to the only available public utility for water service. This aggressive and irresponsible annexation practice has created ineffective and inefficient maintenance of roads and delivery of services. This has been particularly problematic for dispatching of public safety units. Lastly, this municipality does not collect APFO fees leaving the County with limited funding to maintain and construct schools to support growing demand.

I also strongly encourage this bill to be written in such a way to apply to split districts. Annexation by municipalities, beyond the legislative districts where the majority of the municipality exists, creates pools of constituents who pay taxes to the municipality but with no say over the delegate that will represent their interests in the General Assembly.

For the reasons stated above, I ask that you support the passage of HB 1525 with possible amendments to address split legislative districts.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gordon
County Administrator