



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 4, 2025

Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Opposition to House Bill 752—Commission on State and Local Government
Real Property Bearing Confederate Names**

Dear Delegate Pena-Melnyk:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County (the “Board”) unanimously opposes the passage of HB 752. As currently drafted, HB 752 would establish a commission whose purpose is to identify and rename real property owned by the State or any political subdivision in the State which commemorates the Confederate States of America.

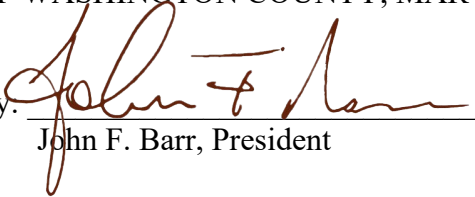
Recognizing the challenges and unique social and political climate which our nation now faces, the Board respectfully suggests that honoring and respecting history and tradition requires society to not just learn and remember history, but to respect its lasting impact as a guidepost in navigating the future. To be sure, the Board does not oppose HB 752 in order to champion the Confederate States of America. Rather, the Board simply wishes to note that the historical significance of the Civil War, and its powerful and sacred significance may be undermined with the renaming of significant historical real property.

Additionally, the Board opposes the passage of HB 752 due to the likely confusion that would result from the renaming of familiar street names and locations. Citizens and guests long familiar with certain names and places are likely to experience challenges and miscommunications. Furthermore, this proposal would unnecessarily waste taxpayer dollars with the costs associated with changing all applicable names, and paying the committee to perform this task.

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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 
John F. Barr, President

cc: Washington County Delegation (via email)