



Office of The Mayor Celina Benitez

1 Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712 Telephone: (301) 985-6585 MountRainierMD.org

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Friday, February 28, 2025
Re: **Support for Senate Bill 820**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and esteemed members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the City of Mount Rainier, I am writing to express our strong support for **Senate Bill 820**, which seeks to increase the maximum fines municipalities can impose for criminal violations and municipal infractions.

This bill is a critical step in strengthening local governance and ensuring municipalities have the necessary enforcement mechanisms to maintain community standards.

Senate Bill 820 proposes raising the maximum fine for municipal ordinance violations from \$1,000 to \$5,000, allowing local governments to enforce their laws more effectively. Many municipalities, including Mount Rainier, struggle to address persistent violations due to outdated penalty limits that fail to serve as meaningful deterrents. Increasing the maximum fine will enhance our ability to protect public health, safety, and overall quality of life by ensuring compliance with zoning, land use, and public nuisance regulations.

The City of Mount Rainier is committed to fostering a safe and well-regulated community, and the passage of **Senate Bill 820** will empower local governments to hold violators accountable while preserving the integrity of our local laws. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and urge the General Assembly to pass this legislation.

For these reasons, we urge a **Favorable Report on Senate Bill 820**.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Celina R. Benitez

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier