



ANNE ARUNDEL
CONNECTING TOGETHER

Testimony to SB 856

Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) strongly urges members of the Judicial Committee to favorably pass SB856 – the Maryland Protection ACT of 2025

As a people's power organization and non-profit comprised of 18 faith entities, ACT represents nearly 24,000 residents living in all parts of the County's planning regions. We work across race, socioeconomic backgrounds, faith, and geography to win on issues of justice for low- and moderate-income communities in Anne Arundel County. Attaining and protecting affordable housing is one of our core priorities. ACT is committed to ensuring that an adequate housing supply exists in all regions of the county that is fair and affordable for people of all races, classes, ages, and abilities.

Enacting SB856 is an essential component to the ongoing maintenance of affordable housing stock in the county that is rented through either government agencies or private owners. From our work within the communities over the past years, we have seen evidence of the health issues evolving from mold and the impacts to the displacement of tenants. SB not only begins to establish an assessment process in which levels of mold can be determined, but the educational component to tenants and owners is both beneficial and cost effective.

Absent the existence of federal standards to address these issues, having the State of Maryland become a leader to take a positive step as a preventive measure is a no-brainer.

Sincerely,
Rev. Stephen Tillet, Chair
Pastor. Broadneck United Methodist Church