

Mayor

Sarah Franklin

Commissioners

Derrick Brooks
Charles Colbert
Karen Lott
Alma Prevatte



Friday, February 20, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 820 - Municipalities - Enforcement of Ordinances and Resolutions

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Honorable Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Upper Marlboro, I strongly support Senate Bill 820, which increases the maximum fines municipalities may impose for ordinance and resolution violations. This bill is essential for empowering local governments to uphold community standards and maintain residents' quality of life.

Increasing the maximum fine to \$5,000 for municipal infractions and misdemeanors will provide a more effective deterrent. This is particularly crucial for towns like Upper Marlboro, which often struggle with irresponsible property managers. The current \$1,000 limit is frequently insufficient, especially for repeat offenses and more serious infractions.

Local ordinances in Upper Marlboro are vital not only for preserving public health, safety, and environmental standards but also for our economic development. This bill will significantly enhance our ability to enforce these ordinances, ensuring that properties in our downtowns are well-maintained and safe, which is critical to achieving our economic development goals. It will allow us to ensure compliance with regulations designed to protect our community's well-being and foster a thriving business environment.

We commend Senators Watson and Rosapepe for sponsoring this important legislation and urge its swift passage. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you require further information or wish to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,



Sarah Franklin
Mayor

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