



February 14, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Oppose House Bill 874 - Property Tax - Special Use Assessment of Country Clubs and Golf Courses – Repeal

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our members, I write in opposition to House Bill 874 that will dramatically increase taxes on our golf course and member facilities, which provide critical open spaces for recreation and wildlife refuge in our community of Manor Park, located in Montgomery County. The increase in taxes on our land and buildings will negatively impact the financial viability of Manor Country Club.

Founded in 1921, Manor Country Club (MCC), a 501(c)(7) organization, represents over 700 families in our community, who not only cherish the ability to enjoy open spaces, that unfortunately, are rapidly disappearing in our communities, but also improve our environment and quality of life.

MCC welcomes golfers of all ages and abilities and offers a range of initiatives aimed at enriching and expanding the opportunities within the sport. This includes fostering the next generation of golfers through junior programs, and the use of our facilities by local area schools and colleges, such as Our Lady of Good Counsel High School (Olney) and Howard University (HBCU in DC). Over the years and most recently, MCC has hosted the Wounded Warriors Project, affording military veterans, many with severe disabilities, the opportunity to play and compete at the game of golf.

Maryland's golf industry fuels economic vitality through direct operational expenditures, capital investments, and job creation. If enacted, House Bill 874 could severely damage an important economic engine within our Community and State, as MCC employs 120 full-time staff year-round, and 180 staff members during high season from May – September, pumping \$12 million directly into our local economy. MCC has been and continues to be an integral part of the State's sports culture, shaping Manor Park and the surrounding communities' residential and social identities.



Manor Country Club

MCC's total acreage is 176 acres. If House Bill 874 is enacted, many of those acres will be developed with housing properties. If MCC is developed with housing projects there would be a loss of open recreational space and refuge for local wildlife, as MCC has foxes, red hawks, and migrating geese living on our property, to name just a few of the varied wildlife that make their home on our open space. Not to mention the loss of natural forestation in the local area. Additionally, the burden that this would place on our local County infrastructure such as schools, public safety, transportation, and other needs would be enormous.

On behalf of the entire membership, management and staff of Manor Country Club, I respectfully urge you to vote unfavorable on House Bill 874.

Sincerely,

David J. Lacki
President – Manor Country Club
Chair – Board of Governors