



CITY OF LAUREL OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

March 26, 2026

State of Maryland
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable Senator James C. Rosapepe, Vice-Chair
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee **BILL: HB 1142** – Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures **POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Laurel, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1142.

Our municipality, like many of the 157 cities and towns across Maryland, is operating under a revenue framework that has not been substantially modernized in nearly 60 years. Currently, property taxes account for approximately 67% of our general fund. While we take pride in providing essential services—from a full-service police department to a full-service department of public works and a full-service department of parks and recreation—this heavy reliance on a single revenue source is no longer sustainable in a modern economy.

HB 1142 is a common-sense, "study-first" approach. By establishing a blue-ribbon task force, the State can finally evaluate how we can:

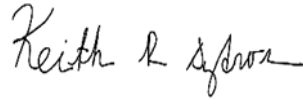
- **Relieve the Burden on Homeowners:** By identifying alternative revenue streams, we can move away from the "one-lever" system that forces us to raise property taxes to meet rising costs. Property taxes have also increased based on increases in assessments compounding this burden on homeowners and property owners.
- **Reflect a Modern Economy:** Our current tools were built for a mid-20th-century economy. We need a system that captures the value of our modern, service-based and visitor-driven economies.
- **Ensure Local Resilience:** Diversified revenue makes local governments more resilient to economic shifts, ensuring that municipal services remain stable even when the housing market fluctuates.

In the City of Laurel, we are currently facing rising costs of employee pay and benefits; increased utility costs for City-owned facilities; increases in the costs of vehicles and vehicle maintenance as well increased costs for street projects. Without modern revenue tools, our only option is to look back to our property owners for additional funding. This

task force is the necessary first step toward giving us the flexibility we need to keep our community affordable and vibrant.

We respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1142**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith R. Sydnor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor