



UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO


Building a Better Life for Maryland's Working Families

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Testimony of UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO

SB 1005 - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards – Alterations

Oppose

Gino Renne, President
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On behalf of the members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1994 MCGEO, I write to express our strong opposition to SB 1005 – Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission – General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards – Alterations. This legislation proposes to dismantle the agency’s coordinated authority over its core administrative functions, including the Office of General Counsel, human resources, information technology, and—based on a pending amendment—potentially the agency’s procurement system.

Despite our understandable disagreements from time to time, after working with dozens of agency leaders over several decades, MCGEO knows that dismantling the Commission’s administrative backbone would lead to significant disruption and undermine the professional stability of our members.

First and foremost, we find it unconscionable to consider dismantling the agency’s centralized human resources system. Creating a dual system for recruitment, classification, or collective bargaining would inevitably lead to inconsistent treatment—including disparities in compensation—for employees with comparable knowledge, skills, and abilities. Beyond the expertise of the experienced HR professionals currently serving the Commission, every organization relies on strong institutional memory and the consistent application of rules and policies.

This bill could ultimately undermine the protections and gains that M-NCPPC employees have earned over many years. It is misguided legislation that could harm both the employees and the communities they serve.

Second, creating a dual employment system would almost certainly produce disparities within the agency’s pension system and other competitive benefits that help the



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Commission recruit and retain qualified employees. It is simply not feasible to divide the HR system or create a parallel workforce without also altering the structure of the existing pension fund. This is a risk that none of our members, other Commission professionals, retirees, or beneficiaries should have to bear.

From an operational perspective, this legislation makes little sense and jeopardizes the quality of the Commission's services.

In our view, the proposal appears politically motivated—an attempt to wrest authority from a bi-county governing structure that has served the region well and shift power toward a system driven more by political considerations than sound administration.

Commission employees, and the communities we serve in both counties, deserve the consistent application of rules, regulations, and policies—not competing boards attempting to “direct and control” the agency.

The men and women we represent will lose if this bill passes. Our members are the ones who drive and repair the trucks, cut the grass, trim the trees, maintain the parks, and deliver one of the best park and recreation systems in the nation.

Please do not do this to them or their families.