

Testimony on SB 1005:

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and
Powers of Local Planning Board

Before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Date: March 24, 2026

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**

The Coalition for Smarter Growth opposes SB 1005.

CSG advocates for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

We are deeply concerned that this bill harms both Prince George's and Montgomery counties. It potentially disrupts ongoing work to provide planning, development review, and park services to two major jurisdictions, and would weaken the regional coordination that is a core role for this bi-county agency – in the areas of the environment, land use, transportation, and parks.

SB 1005 would effectively dismantle M-NCPPC bi-county functions without any study, fiscal analysis, or a clear reason for making these drastic changes. The cost to both counties could be substantial during a time of fiscal stress on local governments.

We urge fuller consideration of its implications before making such a dramatic change. The far-reaching effects of the bill on the planning boards, and the planning and parks departments should be fully considered before rushing through legislation.

We ask for an **unfavorable** report for SB 1005 by the committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Cort
Maryland Housing Advocacy Manager