

Trudye Morgan Johnson
13431 Haddonfield Lane
Darnestown, Maryland 20878

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Stop! Oppose SB 1005

Dear Chair Feldman:

In MNCPPC's 99-year history, one politician or another has thought it expedient to kill the perceived fatted goose! Well, this goose is not fat, but it is golden in providing exemplary services to the residents of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. This is not happening by chance, but by design. The Bi-county corporate functions are the glue that aligns MNCPPC with its core mission while delivering distinct services tailored to the needs of the respective counties.

As a former Director of both the Montgomery County Department of Recreation and Executive Director of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, I have served both counties. I also spent considerable time working in and with the community, having built the Upcounty Government Center before taking on those positions. SB 1005 is not coming to you from communities served by the Commission, nor has the community had an opportunity to discuss and understand the implementation of such an action.

SB 1005, if permitted to proceed, will surely rip the heart out of a now uniform Commission. There is no basis for you to assume carving out Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Risk Management, Corporate Policy, and the Inspector General's Office will yield offsetting efficiencies, not to mention policies and procedures appropriate for a public, state-enabled agency. Would such an action be appropriate for WSSC? It also makes little sense to assign these functions to the respective planning Boards. Their discrete time should be dedicated to the respective Councils' work priorities. Policy approval is one thing; however, day-to-day supervision of administrative functions is another.

I urge you to put the brakes on this idea. Please send this bill back to its makers and give them the time to discuss the problem they are trying to solve. As a public employee of over 44 years and a bi-county resident, I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve the Commission and the respective counties.

Regards,

Trudye Morgan Johnson

Trudye Morgan Johnson
Executive Director (Retired)
Montgomery County Department (Retired)

cc: The Honorable Benjamin Kramer, Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation
The Honorable Julie Palakovich Carr, Chair, Montgomery County House Delegation