

**HB 160:** State and Local Government - Real Property - Confederate Naming  
Prohibited: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maryland to strongly oppose **HB 160**.

Maryland already has processes for naming and renaming public property through elected officials and community input. **This legislation imposes a broad, one-size-fits-all ban on an entire category of historical references, regardless of context, educational value, or local sentiment.** It restricts the ability of future elected leaders and citizens to honor aspects of American history — including military history, Southern heritage, or specific individuals — simply because they are associated with the Confederacy at a key point in our country's history.

My main concerns include:

- **Local control:** Decisions about naming parks, roads, buildings, or other public real property should remain with local governments and communities, not dictated by Annapolis through blanket prohibitions.
- **Historical erasure:** This bill sets a precedent for government to selectively censor or restrict references to parts of our shared history based on current political preferences, rather than allowing open debate and contextual education.
- **Slippery slope:** Once government starts banning certain historical names, it becomes easier to target other periods, figures, or events, undermining free expression and cultural heritage.

**Maryland residents deserve the freedom to preserve and debate history through their locally elected representatives**, without top-down mandates that prioritize one ideological view over balanced remembrance.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 160** and any similar efforts to restrict naming rights on public property.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals