

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Julie Palakovich Carr, Chair
Montgomery County House Delegation

The Honorable Benjamin F. Kramer, Chair
Montgomery County Senate Delegation

The Honorable Ronald L. Watson, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation

The Honorable Nicole A. Williams, Chair
Prince George's County House Delegation

Re: Opposition to SB 1005 / Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning
Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards – Alterations

Dear Chairs of the Bi-County Delegations:

I strongly oppose SB 1005, which proposes a harmful reorganization of the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission. By dismantling core administrative functions like Legal, HR, and Finance, the bill would create a duplicative and costly bureaucracy, wasting millions in taxpayer funds.

The Commission's current hybrid business model is an award-winning success. It efficiently leverages specialized expertise across both counties while maintaining centralized oversight for procurement, IT, and legal services. Breaking this unified structure makes no sense and would significantly diminish the agency's effectiveness.

Furthermore, SB 1005 threatens the pension system for over 5,000 employees and retirees. Disrupting the cohesive structure that supports this system jeopardizes its actuarial balance and fiduciary stability, ultimately costing taxpayers more.

SB 1005 is a misguided attempt to fix a high-performing, 100-year-old agency that isn't broken. For the sake of fiscal responsibility and agency excellence, I urge an unfavorable vote on this bill.

In the best interests of sound public policy, residents of Prince George's and Montgomery counties stand up for an unfavorable vote on SB 1005.

Best regards,

Gordon Geoffrey Collins
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