

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
House Bill 160
Favorable Report

Honorable Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee;

We, the Steering Committee of neighborhood group One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community, request a favorable report for House Bill 160.

Maryland should stand firmly against white supremacy and those who uphold white supremacist ideals. This includes those who participated in defending the enslavement of Black people. Confederates deserve contempt, not memorials to their racist actions. Naming property after people who supported institutions that denied rights and basic respect to people based on skin color would give mixed signals about this state's values, and could cause trauma.

In Pasadena, there are houses and pickup trucks that display Confederate flags. There are people who wanted a middle school to keep the name of a segregationist. There are individuals who continue to defend slavery, or who argue that the Civil War had nothing to do with enslavement at all. You can't control what's in the hearts and minds, or in the yards or on the vehicles of people, but you can certainly control the names of some types of property.

Please give House Bill 160 a favorable report. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
The One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, Maryland