

Testimony from
Kurt Engel
to Support Passage of
MD Voting Rights Act (HB 350)

I am writing to encourage passage of the Maryland Voting Rights act. As a resident of St Mary's County, I have seen first-hand what happens when voting at large dilutes the vote. Our Board of County Commissioners is a homogenous group made up of elderly (for the most part), white, male and Republican members. However, our county population is only 70% white, 16% Black and the balance other people of color. While the portion of the county registered as Republican is 42%, they make up 100% of the Board of Commissioners. Our Board of Commissioners is not representative of demographics that make up the county and it is due to vote dilution. Please pass the Maryland Voting Rights Act.