



## CITY OF ABERDEEN

February 2, 2026

House Government, Labor and Elections Committee  
for the State of Maryland

**Subject: HB 0099 – Municipalities – Annexed Land – Land Use and Density  
Written Testimony in Support**

Dear Honorable Members of this Committee:

On behalf of the City of Aberdeen, I am providing written testimony for your consideration in support of the proposed House Bill 99. We support the State reverting annexation code provisions on appropriateness of requested municipal zoning from the County zoning ordinance back to the land use recommendations in the adopted local comprehensive plans, as was the requirement before 2006.

Our contention is that the current process:


1. Is no longer necessary for the below stated reasons,
2. It only creates impediments to smart and sustainable growth in Maryland, and
3. It is a hindrance to implementing the State's current initiatives intended to address the current housing shortage in Maryland.

The following is an outline of the events that have led to the issue before you today.

- The State Code change in 2006 occurred due to concerns about how some municipalities were annexing and a desire to ensure that smart growth planning was in place before municipalities expanded their boundaries.
- H.B. 1141 changed the annexation zoning analysis to a more inflexible test and required that municipal comprehensive plans contain a Growth Element and that all local comprehensive plans include a Water Resource Element. The goals were to ensure that growth and infrastructure planning be in place to accommodate service demands from annexation activity and overall growth. Growth boundaries are also required to be part of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Since 2006, all municipalities that annex should have adopted new comprehensive plans that include the required Growth Element and Water Resources Element. Municipalities are required to consider the county's land use recommendations as they formulate the land use recommendations for the municipal growth area. We are now practicing the smart and sustainable growth planning that the 2006 law sought.
- Properties now ripe for development sit fallow waiting for a five-year period to expire or have to negotiate with County elected officials to waive the zoning requirements (five-year rule).

**The time for change is now as Maryland's need for additional housing to accommodate population projections is so great.**

Respectfully,



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City of Aberdeen