

February 19, 2026

Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **Opposition to House Bill 887 (2026)** — Video Lottery Terminals – Local Impact Grants – Allocation for Fair Hill Purses

Dear Chairs Wilkins and Barnes,

On behalf of the Town of Perryville, we respectfully express our opposition to House Bill 887. As currently drafted, HB 887 would necessitate that the Town of Perryville allocate \$70,000 of its local impact grant funding from video lottery terminals for fiscal years 2027 through 2029 specifically for race purses at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area.

The purpose of local impact grant funding is to mitigate the effects of hosting gaming facilities and to support key local priorities such as public safety, infrastructure, health services, and economic development. In addition, the Town of Perryville regularly uses these funds to support the community, including local businesses and nonprofit organizations. The adaptable nature of this funding enables us to respond to changing community needs and allocate resources where they are most required.

Forcing a fixed allocation for a specific purpose, regardless of local financial conditions or other priorities, limits the Town's capacity to manage these funds responsibly. Locally elected officials, who are accountable to their constituents, are in the best position to decide how to use local impact grants.

For these reasons, the Town of Perryville respectfully urges an **unfavorable** report on HB 887.

Sincerely,

Michelle Linkey
Mayor