



The Town of Washington Grove
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February 20, 2026

To: **Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair, and
the House Ways and Means Committee**

From: Town of Washington Grove, District 39

Re: **HB1142: Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures.**

Position: **Support**

As Mayor, I am writing on behalf of the Town of Washington Grove to urge you to act favorably on HB 1142 which mandates creation of a “Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures”. This "blue-ribbon" commission will study alternative revenue sources such as those used in other states to ensure our local governments can remain fiscally resilient without placing the entire burden on property owners.

Washington Grove’s revenue comes from property tax assessments (~40%), income tax sharing by the State, road funds sharing from the State and county tax-duplication payments. Washington Grove’s heavy reliance on property taxes and assessments, as the only source under our control, , limits our ability to fund essential services or provide tax relief to our residents.

Local governments in Maryland have need for greater local flexibility in revenue sources. Consider that present revenue tools available to municipalities haven't been meaningfully updated for almost 60 years. A study is a necessary, common-sense first step towards providing alternatives we need to thrive.

Speaking for the Town of Washington Grove and other Maryland municipalities and their residents, I ask that your Committee **report favorably on HB 1142** – “Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures.”

Respectfully yours,

John G. Compton
Mayor, Town of Washington Grove

