



Committee: House Ways and Means

Testimony on: House Bill 90 – Property Taxes – Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Commercial and Industrial Property

Organization: Mobilize Frederick

Submitting: Kathy Kinsey

Chair, Government Affairs Committee

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 27, 2026

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice-Chair Feldmark, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 90 – Property Taxes – Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate for Commercial and Industrial Property.

Mobilize Frederick is a nonprofit community advocacy organization formed to assist with implementing the recommendations of the 2021 Climate Response and Resilience Report (CRRR), a comprehensive climate action plan chartered by the City of Frederick and Frederick County. Mobilize Frederick urges the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on this bill.

Property taxes are the main source of revenue for county governments. Currently, counties have no authority to levy their own transportation taxes. Rather, they depend on a share of State-levied tax revenues to support transportation projects. House Bill 90 would authorize counties to set special property tax rates for commercial and industrial properties to fund critical education and transportation improvement projects.

In this time of federal funding cuts and continuing projected State budget deficits, county governments and school districts across the State are experiencing first hand the impacts of reduced state transportation and education funding. This bill will vest counties with the same authority municipalities have, providing counties with tax structure flexibility and the option to target tax rate increases. Passage of this bill will enable Frederick and other county governments to generate much needed funding for schools and transportation projects.

For all the foregoing reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable** report on House Bill 90.

Sincerely,

KATHY KINSEY
Chair, Government Affairs and Policy Committee

cc: Karen Cannon
Executive Director