



Office of The Mayor Celina R. Benitez

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February 20, 2026

Re: **Support of House Bill 1142**

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in **support of House Bill 1142**, which establishes a Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures. The City strongly supports the creation of this Task Force as a necessary and timely step toward ensuring the long-term fiscal sustainability of Maryland's local governments.

The City of Mount Rainier is a beautiful municipality in Prince George's County with an aging housing stock, historic neighborhoods, and limited opportunities for large-scale commercial growth. Like many older inner-ring communities, the City relies heavily on a narrow set of traditional revenue sources while facing increasing costs related to infrastructure maintenance, public works, stormwater management, public safety coordination, and community services. These pressures are compounded by inflation and rising service demands, even as local revenue authority remains constrained.

HB 1142 is important to Mount Rainier because it creates a forum to examine whether existing county and municipal revenue structures align with today's economic realities. By evaluating current revenue sources, optional tools, and practices used in other states, the Task Force offers an opportunity to assess how local governments can responsibly diversify revenue without undermining affordability for residents or small businesses.

The City also appreciates that the Task Force includes representation from municipal and county organizations and is charged with producing data-driven recommendations rather than predetermined outcomes. This approach respects local variation and recognizes that communities differ significantly in size, capacity, and economic base. For the City of Mount Rainier, a thoughtful examination of revenue authority is essential to maintaining quality services while continuing to invest in community stability and revitalization.

For these reasons, the City of Mount Rainier urges the Committee to issue a **favorable report on House Bill 1142**.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership. Please feel free to contact me at 301-985-6585 or via email MayorBenitez@MountRainierMd.org if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Celina R. Benitez

Mayor Celina R. Benitez, City of Mount Rainier.