



March 13, 2026

Hon. Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Speaker of the House
and Members of the House of Delegates
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 1163 - Special Taxing Districts - Village of Drummond - Authority and Organization (MC 20-26)

Dear Speaker and House Members:

I serve as counsel to the Village of Drummond, a small special-taxing District in Montgomery, County. House Bill 1163 is presented in order to update and clarify the Village Charter.

The Village was originally formed as a special taxing area, and given various powers by the State through enactment of Public Local Laws throughout the years. The Village Charter was last updated 23 years ago, in 2003, and we seek further amendment to bring some of its provisions up to date.

The amendments would: (1) change the name of the governing body from the "Citizen's Committee" to the "Village Council", and clarify what offices are to exist; (2) require fiduciary bonds for officials; (3) clarify the purposes for which public funds may be expended; (4) add a process for budget adoption and require an annual audit; (5) lower the voting age from 21 to 18, and delete the 6-month residency requirement for voter qualification; (6) confirm meeting scheduling procedures, under the Open Meetings Act; (7) clarify general powers, including maintenance of the street; and (8) raise the competitive bidding threshold from \$300 to \$15,000, and add customary exemptions thereto.

We respectfully request a favorable vote on this Bill. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Village of Drummond

By: _____
Ronald M. Bolt, Village Counsel

cc: Mayor Liz Brenner-Leifer