



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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February 19, 2020

The Honorable Maggie Macintosh
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Macintosh,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 621, the County Tax Fairness Act. Howard County views the proposed change of the reimbursement requirement from 20 to 80 installments as advantageous to the citizens of Howard County for these reasons:

- With uncertain levels of revenue growth and the increasing needs of our citizens, the extension and leveling of the payments eases the more immediate fiscal burden.
- Lower payments may provide the possibility for more cash investment in infrastructure.
- The bond rating agencies would view the additional financial flexibility as favorable, thus allowing for a better rating and lower interest rate for borrowing.

We appreciate your willingness to consider this change to the Fairness Act and encourage a favorable outcome.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet R. Irvin".

Janet R. Irvin, CPFO
Howard County Director of Finance