

Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

March 16, 2020

The Honorable Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: Support of CB14-2020

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to foster healthy, equitable and sustainable communities through smarter development and transportation decisions and improved protections for the county's natural, historic and cultural resources.

CB14 proposes to eliminate the ability of unused residential development allocations to roll over into the next year. This is a commendable suggested change due to the need for controls that help with pacing of infrastructure needs in our County. Unused allocations that are made available the following year have the potential to thwart the ability of the General Plan to successfully match the growth in development with the growth in the County's service provisions. This could lead to years when there are too many units incoming that could overwhelm our County resources.

We currently have a budget crisis, with not enough funds for our School System, and other public service increased needs. Our growth cannot continue to be allowed to go without pacing, and we have to take control of planning in a more organized and fiscally responsible way, with predictability and prioritizations of quality and safety of services that Howard County residents need and expect.

According to the Department of Planning and Zoning, currently, and over the recent past, development does not wait long for allocations, so there is not much downside to implementing this now, while there would not be a large impact on current projects.

*Audubon MD-DC • Audubon Society of Central Maryland • Bicycling Advocates of Howard County
Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Clean Water Action • Coalition for Smarter Growth • Community Ecology Institute
Earth Forum of Howard County • HARP • Horizon Foundation • Howard County Citizens Association
Howard County Conservancy • Howard County Sierra Club • Maryland Conservation Council
Maryland League of Conservation Voters • Maryland Ornithological Society • Patapsco Heritage Greenway
Preservation Maryland • Safe Skies Maryland • Savage Community Association • The People's Voice • Transition Howard County*

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Sincerely,

The People's Voice, LLC

Lisa M. Markovitz
President

Safe Skies Maryland

Mark Southerland, Ph.D.
Legislative Director

Savage Community Association

Susan Garber
Board Chair

Howard County Citizens Association

Stu Kohn
President

Howard County Sierra Club

Carolyn Parsa
Chair

Preservation Maryland

Nicholas A. Redding
Executive Director

Transition Howard County

Margo Duesterhaus
President

Clean Water Action

Emily Ranson
Maryland Program Coordinator

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive