



Chair Krystal Oriadha
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"Prototype For What Is Possible"

March 17, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council, we write to express our strong support for SB 1005, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards - Alterations.

SB 1005 makes thoughtful and necessary updates to the governance structure of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. By removing the requirement for a centrally appointed General Counsel and clarifying the authority of local planning boards, this legislation better aligns decision-making with the jurisdictions most directly responsible for land use, planning, and development outcomes.

For counties like Prince George's and Montgomery, where planning and economic development priorities are complex and fast-moving, this bill provides greater flexibility to manage legal and operational functions in ways that are responsive to local needs. Empowering local planning boards to exercise clearer authority will help streamline processes, reduce administrative bottlenecks, and improve coordination between planning, economic development, and infrastructure investments.

Importantly, SB 1005 reflects a broader principle that local governments are best positioned to make decisions about growth, redevelopment, and community planning within their jurisdictions. By modernizing the Commission's structure, this bill strengthens accountability while enabling more efficient and effective governance.

At a time when Maryland is competing for economic investment and working to deliver smart, sustainable growth, these updates are both timely and necessary.

For the reasons stated above, the Prince George's County Council supports SB 1005.

Sincerely,

Krystal Oriadha
Council Chair