

904 Cannon Road
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December 9, 2010
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Montgomery County Delegation

Re: MC/PG 101-11

Dear Senators and Delegates;

I am speaking for Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) as Vice President and Chair of the Legislation Committee. I am also speaking for the Greater Colesville Citizens Association (GCCA) as President.

Both the MCCF Executive Committee and GCCA Executive Board voted on November 17 and December 6 respectively to support bill MC/PG 101-11. Both groups are always in favor of the public having a greater opportunity to have a voice in important decisions being made by County Government. Having the option to petition zoning text amendments or zoning map amendments to a public vote is an opportunity citizens should have. Since such a large number of valid signatures is required, citizens will make use of this ability only for those rare instances that have county-wide impact and are of significant importance. It will also serve the purpose of giving citizens a voice when they feel they were not heard during the normal public hearing process. We would hope that all of this will encourage elected officials to pay more attention to the public and actually reduce the need to petition.

For these reasons, both groups urge the Delegation to support MC/PG 101-11.

Sincerely

Daniel L. Wilhelm