



April 2, 2018

The Honorable Anne Arundel County Council
44 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Resolution No. 6-18: Charter Amendment – Consistency – Comprehensive Zoning SUPPORT

Dear County Council Members:

The Anne Arundel Alliance for Livable Communities urges you to vote in favor of Resolution 6-18, which proposes an amendment to the Charter requiring that a comprehensive zoning bill and all amendments be consistent with the General Development Plan, as determined by the Planning and Zoning Officer. If approved by the Council, the amendment would be subject to voter approval or rejection in the General Election in November 2018.

Creation of the General Development Plan is one of the most important efforts undertaken by county government. The plan decides how and where the county will grow for years to come. Residents invest considerable time and effort in the planning process, working with staff to determine both the kind of future that will best serve the county and the means of realizing that future.

Comprehensive zoning is a powerful plan implementation tool. It should not be used as a way to reward land speculation efforts contrary to the General Development Plan. Because the county has considerable development pressure, it is appropriate and necessary to institute checks like the certification of consistency proposed by the Charter Amendment.

Likewise, in the spirit of good government, we hope you will agree that this is a matter that should ultimately be decided by county voters. We ask that you vote in favor of the resolution so the people of Anne Arundel County have an opportunity to decide how their government should handle comprehensive zoning.

Sincerely,
1000 Friends of Maryland
Kimberly Golden Brandt
Executive Director

Jessup Improvement Association
Ellen Moss
Board Member

Audubon Maryland-DC
David Curson
Director of Bird Conservation

Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Karla Raettig
Executive Director

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne
Arundel County
Jon Korin
President

Neighbors of the Mayo Peninsula
Lara Lutz
Board Member

Clean Water Action
Emily Ranson
Maryland Program Coordinator

Patuxent Riverkeeper
Frederick L. Tutman
Riverkeeper, CEO

Generals Highway Council of Civic Associations
Richard Falk
Steering Committee Member

Preservation Maryland
Nicholas Redding
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Steve Schuh, County Executive
Phil Hager, Director of Planning and Zoning
Diane Croghan, Chief of Staff
Mark Hartzell, Chief Administrative Officer