



THE VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

BILL 34-15, TAXES, TRANSPORTATION AND SCHOOL IMPACT TAXES - AMENDMENTS

OPPOSE

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce advocates for economic competitiveness, infrastructure investment and business opportunities for our members and to support the success of our community. We are in favor of the revisions in this proposed legislation that allow for the time extension and the application to the total reconstruction of an existing road. However, the main gist of the legislation runs counter to encouraging development near transit and in targeted areas.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that Bill 34-15 be reconsidered to be consistent with other policy goals and objectives of Montgomery County. Taxes provide revenue to the government so that the government can fund important programs and services to serve the public. Tax policy can incentivize or deter activity. To that end, we request that the Montgomery County Council focus on legislation that incentivizes other policy goals and objectives deemed appropriate (eg, economic development).

In order to provide much needed housing and to grow the tax base, development should be concentrated in areas served by transit. Transit Oriented Development and smart growth are long held assertions that direct the growth and development of Montgomery County. Development can be encouraged further by identifying areas where such development is desirable and using policies to stimulate that activity. These policies, in fact, are in keeping with the key decision made decades ago to establish and preserve the Agricultural Reserve.

It is perplexing that the County Council would propose to roll back the very tax incentives used to help bring to fruition the land use policies deemed appropriate for the future of Montgomery County. Eliminating impact tax rates near MARC stations, the separate impact tax rate for Metro stations and the elimination of the impact tax in some enterprise zones in favor of a county wide tax is not consistent with the kind of development that ensures a sustainable future for Montgomery County.

Therefore we respectfully request that you maintain the existing impact tax rates for development near transit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gigi Godwin, President and CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800 Rockville, MD 20850
301-738-0015
www.montgomerycountychamber.com