

**Date:** 21 December 2016

**Subject:** Proposed Legislation HOCO – 18-17

Dear Delegation,

The Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) sincerely appreciates the proposed Bill introduced by Delegate Teri Hill regarding the Merriweather Post Pavilion (MPP) and felt by many of your constituents within the area which extends way beyond the boundaries of MPP. This has been an ongoing major problem for the past three years as continually expressed by our members on the HCCA Listserve. Our members are our number one priority and hopefully yours as they are your constituents. In this case all you have to do is simply repeal the 2013 legislation that started this nightmare.

The question you as our elected officials should always be asking is what has precedence? Is it the quality of life or is it any economic benefit? The answer obviously is your voters whose health, safety and welfare should always be your number one focus. I want to thank the Columbia Association (CA) Board for taking positive action to recognize their residents do have priority. They sent the Delegation a letter stating to please hear the cries of your constituents and pass legislation that will once and for all end the continuous complaints.

On October 19, HCCA compiled a report titled, "Consideration for Action to turn down the sound at Merriweather Post Pavilion" which was emailed to you. The report includes an estimated financial analysis of what we believe the County nets on an annual basis from MPP. It amounts to approximately only \$327,000 but it wouldn't matter if it brought \$327 million dollars. It is not about the dollars. It is about the people affected. Our report includes a comparison of other venues with their decibel ratings. MPP is the highest. Why? I want to emphasize as stated at our September 20 meeting we are not saying MPP should be closed. It is simply about turning down the volume to theoretically have no more complaints from Merriweather's neighbors. MPP has stepped up to the plate by admitting there are indeed sound problems. Unfortunately it was stated at a recent CA Board Meeting by MPP that any alleviation of the sound problem is at least two years away. If MPP were your neighbor or if a neighbor of yours was playing loud music I'm sure you would be phoning the authorities asking them to please provide you the peace you deserve as a taxpayer of the county.

Assuming you do indeed vote in favor of our request the next step is to ensure the regulation is enforced and severe penalties be administered if there are any further violations. Hopefully your action will bring to those who have suffered far too long a present that they deserve which will be cherished. After all it is the season to be jolly!

Thank You and Happy Holidays.

Stu Kohn  
HCCA, President