



**HCCA**

**Howard County Citizens Association**

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*The Voice Of The People of Howard County*

Date: 8 March 2017

Subject: HB677 -- Howard County – Noise Control – Outdoor Concert Venues HOCO 18-17  
Testimony to the Maryland House Environmental and Transportation Committee

My name is Stuart Kohn and I am the president of the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA. It is indeed a privilege to be here today in front of this most distinguished body. HCCA sincerely appreciates the approval by our Howard County Delegation of HOCO 18-17 and we are hoping the General Assembly will have the sound judgement to pass HB677 – Howard County – Noise Control – Outdoor Concert Venues. The Bill to reduce the decibel levels at the Merriweather Post Pavilion (MPP) was introduced by Delegate Terri Hill and amended by Delegate Eric Ebersole. We want to thank the entire Delegation and especially including Delegate Flanagan for their utmost support.

Unfortunately this has been a major issue for the past three years as continually expressed by many in the community and as far away as 5 to 7 miles from the MPP location. The Columbia Association Board had the foresight to take positive action by recognizing that their residents come first. They sent the Howard County Delegation a letter stating to please hear the cries of their constituents and pass legislation to once and for all end the continuous complaints.

HCCA produced a report to include pertinent information which contained a comparison of other venues with their decibel ratings. MPP is the highest level and our Delegation saw the need to lower the sound. We are in no way advocating for the closure of Merriweather and it is not whether one likes the music or not. This Bill is simply about turning down the volume which MPP has admitted that at times there has been a problem. The passage of HB677 will theoretically limit complaints from neighbors. We are depending on your vote to bring the peace of mind that the community deserves. Plato stated, “Music is the movement of sound to reach the soul for the education of its virtue.” Some individuals have experienced the sound reaching their nerves. By you passing HB677 the sound of music will be lowered and it undoubtedly would be an act whereby concerned citizens will be extremely thankful you orchestrated.

Thank you,

Stuart Kohn  
HCCA, President