



Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 22 April 2019

Subject: HCCA Testimony Regarding CR51-2019

Members of the County Council,

My name is Hiruy Hagdu and as a member on the Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA Board of Directors we fully support CR51-2019. We are pleased that Councilman David Yungmann is suggesting putting forth a question to the voters in the next general election to allow the County Council a voice in the appointment of County department heads.

The County departments make decisions which affect our quality of life and are given a huge sum of money in the annual budget. Howard County residents would expect their Councilmembers to have an input with the leaders chosen to execute their responsibilities.

We believe a confirmation process will help improve accountability. It will also perhaps prevent the selection of members from the same family to lead county departments as was done last year. The County Council should embrace this as such a measure would improve checks and balances.

We ask you to simply let the voters decide whether or not our County Council should have a voice in the matter of selecting department heads. We would think you would want this responsibility and allow the citizens to testify as we do with selecting nominees for the County Solicitor, the Health Officer, and appointees to numerous boards and commissions. Since the appointment of department heads in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cecil County, Harford County, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Talbot County are subject to confirmation by their respective councils we ask you to do the same.

Your approval of this Bill will lead to more transparency and open government.

Thank You,

Hiruy Hagdu
HCCA Board of Director