



**ELLICOTT CITY
PARTNERSHIP**

POB 92 | Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 | 443.240.2060

CB 70-2017

September 18, 2017

Dear Honorable Howard County Council Members,

On behalf of the Ellicott City Partnership (ECP), I am writing in support of Council Bill 70 (CB70-2017) which would exempt businesses in Howard County historic districts from personal property taxes (PPT) for five years. There are three main reasons for my support.

1. This bill would substantially benefit businesses still recovering from the 2016 flood. Many returning business owners have expressed that re-opening difficult enough but staying in business after such a long interruption and capital outlay has been even harder. Being able to save some of their revenue would help keep them in business. This bill's passage would also help with new Main Street business retention as well as with prospective new business recruitment. For those newly opened businesses this bill would give them a better head start, as well as act as help incentivize potential new businesses to invest in the historic district.
2. Many business owners and even their accountants often find the personal property tax confusing. Keeping lists of all of the applicable furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) is burdensome and accurately calculating the requisite PPT leads to concern regarding penalties for mistakes.
3. While acknowledging that sales taxes and personal property taxes go to two different entities, for many businesses it feels they are being taxed repeatedly for the same FF&E. After paying sales tax when purchasing those items, one then has to keep remitting PPT on them year after year just to use them in the course of doing business.

The ECP requests that you pass this bill and give struggling businesses an extra incentive to remain invested in the historic district.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Besson
Board President
Ellicott City Partnership

The Ellicott City Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that administers the national Main Street program for historic Ellicott City, MD. Its mission is to preserve the heritage and vitality of historic Ellicott City while enhancing and creating economic growth.

**OLD ★
ELLICOTT
CITY**