

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Maryland State Song – SB0008/SB0087/SB0341**

**I am opposed to any legislation to alter or abolish Randall’s “Maryland, My Maryland”.**

*Question:* Which president directed the U.S. military to enforce the following policies in Maryland: recruit and station a large standing army without state consent; establish military control over functional civil authority; assume command and control over all police and state government; seize transportation and communication systems; seize and search all boats and ships; forcibly enter the houses of private citizens; suspend the 2nd Amendment and writ of habeas corpus; arrest citizens and transport them to other states for trial; requisition private property of citizens; stop and frisk citizens without cause; and imprison citizens without due process? *Answer:* President Lincoln. These are irrefutable facts.

Any president who committed such gross usurpations of our Constitution, however, would rightfully be called a “despot”; and that would be one of the kinder appellations. Ironically, the 1<sup>st</sup> Article in Maryland’s “Declaration of Rights” states, “... *the People ... have, at all times, the inalienable right to alter, reform or abolish their Form of Government in such manner as they may deem expedient.*” Pres. Lincoln denied Maryland citizens that right. Maryland’s unique, vibrant, and sometimes turbulent history is clearly embodied in James Randall’s *Maryland, My Maryland*. It includes history from the Revolutionary, Mexican-American, and Civil Wars; and it highlights Maryland’s and America’s history, citizens, and trials during these seminal events.

Other state songs typically bore the listener with insipid geography lessons or generic recitations of ideals to which the citizens of any state might ascribe. Our current state song, like our state flag, far transcends all others in history, distinctiveness, and beauty. Moreover, if ideological purity is the objective in the cancel culture purge of all things deemed “offensive” according to the prevailing zeitgeist, *what is next?* Perhaps our state flag with the coats of arms from the slave-holding Calvert and Crossland families – most notably the “cross bottany” with its secessionist red and white colors adopted by Maryland’s Confederate soldiers? Our flag emblazons everything from flip-flops to flag finials; but it, like the state song, is still a part of Maryland history and both should remain. This legislation is not in Maryland’s best interests.

These bills censor our state’s distinctive story, condemn the state song on the gallows of a national history cleansing frenzy, and deprive future generations of learning some tough truth of cataclysmic epochs in our federal and state history. Once gone, Randall’s *Maryland, My Maryland* is forgotten. This legislation, reminiscent of the ancient Roman practice of “damnatio memoriae”, ensures that it will never be studied or sung again. Please do not support this or any legislation to alter or abolish our state song or history.

Thank you,

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