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February 23, 2021

For the record, I am Peggy Dennis from Potomac, testifying in support of HB769 on behalf of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. Since its founding in 1925, the volunteers of the MCCF have committed themselves to providing an effective citizen voice to government policy makers, both elected and appointed.

The Civic Federation is a not-for-profit, county-wide umbrella group designed to promote cooperation, education and effectiveness of civic and community associations in Montgomery County. We represent over 150,000 Montgomery County residents.

The mission of the MCCF is to preserve and improve the quality of life for all current and future residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. We address a wide range of concerns in transportation, land use, environment, education, budget and finance, public safety, and ethics. With our strength of numbers and thoroughness of our deliberations, the Montgomery County Civic Federation influences county policy and balances the activities of vested county pressure groups

HB 769 is a bill for the purpose of providing that a committee of the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County is a public body for purposes of the Open Meetings Act. In the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2020, the Housing Opportunities Commission received Governmental grants of \$140,900,000. It had expenditures of \$277,200,000 and total assets of \$1,517,400,000.

We consider it important the all public bodies in Montgomery County be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and that the public has the right to observe all meetings that result in the expenditure of taxpayers' funds. The public should absolutely have the right for public review of all activities of the Housing Opportunities Commission.

We therefor respectfully ask for a favorable report on bill HB 769.

Thank you for considering our views.