



Prince George's County Municipal Association

An Association Of 27 Municipalities



March 23, 2021

The Honorable William Smith, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Senate Office Building,
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Favorable with Amendments of SB953 – Domestic Terrorism Task Force

Dear Chair Smith,

On behalf of the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which represents the 27 incorporated cities and towns in Prince George's County, I am writing to express support with amendments for SB953. This bill establishes the Domestic Terrorism Taskforce and provides for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force. It also requires that the Task Force study and develop a plan to establish a statewide network to communicate threats of domestic terrorism to the public and among State and federal government entities. These findings and recommendations will be reported to the Governor and General Assembly by October 1, 2022.

The members of PGCMA are supporting this bill because our residents and their safety are our top priority. However, we do ask that the composition of the task force includes a member of the Prince George's County Municipal Association appointed by the PGCMA President. This language was added to task force legislation in the past. PGCMA represents a concentration of municipalities along the D.C. border, which requires a greater degree of communication in the event of an incident. Therefore, PGCMA would like to have a seat on the task force and be directly involved with the inner works of the Task Force.

On behalf of PGCMA, I thank you for considering this legislation, and I urge a favorable with amendments vote on SB953

Regards,

Mayor Bennard Cann
President, Prince George's County Municipal Association