



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

January 26, 2024

Hon. Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: HB390 FAVORABLE**

**Chairperson Pena-Melnyk,**

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB390** – a piece of legislation that will establish a new name for the museum operated by the Commission on African American History and Culture.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: [presmd.org](http://presmd.org))

The museum's proposed name, Banneker-Douglas-Tubman, will strengthen the museum's efforts to include and honor Harriet Tubman as the museum's namesake. Harriet Tubman's work as an abolitionist and social activist is a critical part of American history. Tubman's history is intertwined with Maryland, some of which includes her birth place in Dorchester County, Maryland and routes where she guided enslaved people to freedom. One of the more frequent routes she took was the Choptank River through Caroline County. The addition of Harriet Tubman's name to the Banneker-Douglas museum will further

HB390 is an enhancing piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

**Favorable**

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO