

*Cherrywood Homeowners Association, Inc.*

*P.O. Box 159*

*Olney, Maryland 20830*

SB0029 Favorable

On behalf of the Cherrywood Homeowners Association, I am writing to ask for your favorable consideration of bill SB0029.

The Cherrywood Homeowners Association (HOA) is comprised of 606 residences in Olney, Maryland situated in District 14. In our district, three out of four State representatives were initially appointed to their positions with one not even residing within District 14, but merely owning property here. This circumstance underscores the pressing issue we face regarding the current policy allowing appointed representatives rather than elected ones.

Our experience reveals that some appointed representatives are inadequately responsive to our community's needs, partly due to the appointment process rather than engaging in an electoral campaign. As you are likely aware over 40% of State representatives in Montgomery County gained their positions through appointments rather than direct election by constituents. In District 14 specifically, 75% of our current representatives were appointed. It is imperative to cease the practice wherein political operatives dictate district representation rather than the residents themselves.

We stand in full support of SB0029, which mandates special elections to fill vacancies left by State senators or delegates for any reason. This legislation ensures that the residents have a direct say in who represents them fostering better representation through Maryland.

In conclusion, The Board of Directors of the Cherrywood HOA wholeheartedly endorses the passage of SB0029 providing for special elections to fill vacated seats before the incumbent's full term concludes.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter and for your anticipated and for your favorable report on SB0029.

Paul F. Jarosinski, President  
Cherrywood HOA  
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