

Senate Capitol Budget Subcommittee
Chair: Senator James E. DeGrange

March 15, 2015

Re: Washington Street Lighting project
Bernard C. Wolters, Committee Chair

Senator DeGrange, Subcommittee Members

(My name is Bernard Wolters residing in Cumberland, Allegany County)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Washington Street Association to obtain financial assistance for the completion of our period street lighting project. Cumberland represents an impressive historic chapter in Maryland's heritage and currently depends on that for its main economic well being.

Our Association represents the first Historic District in Cumberland, which is now one of the main attractions for visitors to our area, to enjoy a self guided tour and admire a chronological showcase of grand architectural historic residences and public buildings from the early 19th century to post war modern times. The original owners of these homes represent our prominent Business and Government Leaders of that era. The current owners of these properties have in the last few decades and continue to invest millions of private dollars to restore these magnificent structures back to their original splendor as single family homes.

The current lighting along the streets of this district is made up of commercial type lamps attached to wooden utility poles. The armatures are not period appropriate and our majestic trees block most of their light. The number of lights is insufficient to project the lighting required for a safe and secure passing of visitors and residents alike.

The home owners of the street have elected to install 110 period gas type street lights, with modern LED lamps, representative of the areas historic architecture, relocate utilities underground where possible and remove utility poles that are no longer needed.

The costs of this project, budgeted at \$600,000.00, will be borne by the home owners themselves through the establishment of a special taxing district by the City of Cumberland, who has joined us in the effort to complete this project and has agreed to take over the direct operating costs as well as all future maintenance expenses for these lights.

We are requesting these funds to assist us in completing this worthy project.

Thank you for your time.