

I am writing to express strong support for the advancement and approval of the Affordable Housing PILOT Program in Charles County.

The County is facing a clear and growing housing affordability crisis. Rising rents and home prices are outpacing wages, making it increasingly difficult for essential workers—including teachers, first responders, healthcare professionals, and service employees—to live in the communities they serve. Current market conditions are simply not sustainable for a healthy, balanced local economy.

The proposed PILOT program represents a practical and proven solution. By helping to close financing gaps for affordable housing developments, the County can leverage private investment to deliver long-term public benefit. These are not giveaways—they are strategic tools that make otherwise infeasible projects possible while ensuring affordability for residents who need it most.

Approving and implementing this program would directly support workforce stability, economic development, and smart growth. It would also align with the County's stated goals of promoting equity, strengthening communities, and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

I respectfully urge the County to move forward with the approval of all 3 PILOT projects and to support the development of high-quality, affordable, and workforce housing. Taking action now will help ensure that Charles County remains a place where people who work here can also afford to live here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roderick C. Lewis Jr.