

Dear Council President Friedson and members of the Montgomery County Council,

My name is Alex Campbell, and I am a freshman civil engineering major at the University of Maryland-College Park. While my parents were able to swing buying a house in Bethesda, parking minimums, among other regulations (please take on single-family zoning next!), massively increase the cost to build housing. This proposal would further incentivize help attack the massive shortage in housing that this county and state face, and drive growth around transit hubs, which is of critical importance to combat emissions and climate change.

Furthermore, this proposal would make living car-light or car-free much easier for many in Montgomery County. Needless to say, we must tackle the issues that cars create: worsened public health (15 times in 2023 drivers killed pedestrians), ridiculous infrastructure costs, and CO2 emissions, of which transportation (i.e. cars and trucks) accounts for the largest share.

I urge the council to pass this bill to continue to strengthen Montgomery County by tackling housing prices to live in and providing flexibility to residents to live with a car, car-light, or car-free. I am truly heartened to see the council working on common sense legislation. This is a fantastic start, and please keep building on the momentum that you have built over the past year in promoting the livability and affordability of Montgomery County.

Alex Campbell