

June 12th, 2019

Del. Krimm,

I do not agree with holding a Delegation meeting to instruct Governor Hogan to schedule a vote on the Downtown Hotel project funding and have no plans to participate for the following reasons:

1. Given that the budget has already been voted on and passed by the General Assembly, the legislative portion of the process is complete. The decision now lies solely with the Executive Branch on whether or not to fund this project. It should be noted that during the legislative session, proponents of the project chose not to have a hearing or a vote from the delegation as a whole. I have long told proponents of the project to follow the regular process, which would be holding a delegation hearing before any funding is inserted into the budget.

I suggest following the process and holding a hearing next year prior to inserting this language into the budget, instead of coming to us after the fact. Hearings are held prior to votes, not after afterwards.

2. We have never met to instruct the Governor on what should be on the BPW agenda. When the I-270 Public-Private Partnership was actually on the agenda, our delegation did not meet. In fact, many state and county lawmakers chose to take no position on this project that will affect the daily lives of thousands of our constituents. I-270 improvements are one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of our county – yet many were silent and we held no hearing. Unlike the downtown hotel, transportation projects are a core function of government.

3. This letter asks lawmakers for a special meeting to go on the record. I'm attaching a letter signed by four members of the delegation sent during the legislative session, dated March 19th, asking Gov. Hogan not to fund this project. Half the delegation is clearly on the record in opposition to current state funding in the budget for the downtown hotel.

Furthermore, I do not agree with several statements made in the letter about the project. I'm attaching a copy of my editorial in the Frederick News-Post outlining my continued objections to taxpayer dollars being used to fund a private hotel.

Sincerely,

Senator Michael Hough
Vice Chair, Frederick County Delegation

CC: Frederick County Delegation
CC: County Executive Jan Gardner
CC: Frederick County Chamber of Commerce