



February 19, 2020

**Senate Bill 457**

**Local Governments - Resilience Authorities - Authorization**

**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

With more than 530 miles of tidal shoreline and many low-lying communities, Anne Arundel County is on the front lines of climate resilience. Our county experiences nuisance flooding, storm surges, frequent heavy rain events, and other consequences from changing weather patterns and sea level rise. In our battle against climate change, collaboration is key and partnerships are essential. No county or municipality can tackle these challenges alone. We will need to work with private and public partners to protect the infrastructure and programs that serve our residents and businesses.

SB 457 will help us achieve those goals. This enabling legislation will give local governments the ability to establish resilience authorities that will help attract public funding and private capital for much-needed capital projects.

Over the past several months, Anne Arundel County has been working collaboratively with the University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability, Charles County, Queen Anne's County, and the City of Annapolis to host resilience workshops and identify unique, valuable assets within each jurisdiction. Our county workgroup identified specific weaknesses and vulnerabilities that could impact county assets, such as sea level rise and extreme weather events. Climate resilience is generally defined as the ability to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to climate change impacts. From this work, we are developing a draft climate resilience action strategy.

With the passage of SB 457, Anne Arundel County will utilize this authority by partnering with the City of Annapolis to revitalize the Annapolis City Dock area and prepare it for sea level rise in accordance with the City Dock Action Committee's consensus recommendations. A resilience authority is essential to this effort, because it will allow us to create a financing mechanism with

public and private participation to complete the effort. It is our obligation as elected officials to protect our residents and our economy from the impacts of climate change. SB 457 will give local governments an important tool to meet that obligation.

**I urge a FAVORABLE report on SB 457 .**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Pittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steuart Pittman  
County Executive