



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 703: Board of Public Works - Transparency Dashboard**

Good afternoon Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Senate bill 703, requiring the Office of the Comptroller to establish and maintain a procurement dashboard on its website. This legislation is a significant step towards enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the procurement processes of our state government.

The provisions outlined in this bill are commendable. Firstly, requiring the procurement dashboard to be public, interactive, and searchable ensures that citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders can easily access and navigate the information they need. This level of accessibility is essential for promoting public trust and facilitating informed decision-making.

Additionally, the requirement for the dashboard to include specified information related to State procurement, as well as compatibility with the Comptroller's online payment processing portal, demonstrates a commitment to comprehensive data integration and usability. By consolidating procurement data and vendor payment information in one accessible platform, the dashboard will enable stakeholders to gain a holistic understanding of procurement activities and expenditures.

I particularly want to note that the dashboard will include information on Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting announcements, agendas, and related materials, as well as details on State procurement preference programs. This transparency regarding procurement processes and preferences is crucial for promoting fairness, equity, and inclusivity in government contracting.

In conclusion, I urge you to support and pass this bill expeditiously. By establishing a procurement dashboard, we can foster greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency in government procurement processes, ultimately serving the best interests of our citizens and strengthening our democratic institutions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes", is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District – MD