



Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce

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SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

**POSITION: SOUTHERN MARYLAND MINORITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL (HB) 0835**

(CALVERT COUNTY – PROCUREMENT – LOCAL PREFERENCE)

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

The Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce wants to echo the support it provided before the House of Delegates in supporting HB 0835.

This bill will authorize the County Commissioners of Calvert County to enact an ordinance that establishes a local percentage preference for certain procurement contracts.

Several counties in Maryland have local preference procurement policies, including counties neighboring Calvert County.

The rationale in seeking the local preference authority is to enable Calvert like other counties the ability to stimulate growth by supporting local vendors which can help create and maintain jobs and contribute to overall economic development by circulating money within the community. It can also assist in the retention of wealth by keeping procurement dollars within the local economy.

In closing we note that similar bills have been sought for passage in the previous legislative sessions and we ask that Calvert, like other counties, be empowered with this tool to be added to its procurement policy toolbox.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and we encourage your support of this bill.