

SB 703 Testimony (1).pdf

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Position: FAV



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,



Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD

SB0703-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 703

Board of Public Works - Transparency Dashboard

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 14, 2024

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 703. This bill would create an online dashboard maintained by the Office of the Comptroller to increase transparency and accessibility of Board of Public Works processes and funded projects. In doing so, the public and local governments that do business with the State will have access to more comprehensive information and resources in real time as the State considers capital projects.

The online dashboard created by SB 703 would include information on Board of Public Works meetings, like agendas, meeting materials, and contract spending amounts for each project under consideration. The dashboard would also include information on various State vendor programs and State procurement preference programs like small and minority-owned preference programs, and it would allow for the integration of vendor payments. Essentially, it would serve as an informational and operational hub for public and local government entities that have projects before the State, and that wish to do business with the State.

Counties commend this initiative and strongly welcome its implications for county governments – who themselves are frequent participants in the Board’s considerations. Not only would SB 703 increase transparency and accessibility but it would also support counties in tracking their capital projects from the time of consideration before the Board of Public Works through various stages of implementation and completion. This is especially helpful for large, complex projects, such as those involving transportation infrastructure. Additionally, smaller counties with less capacity and fewer staff will be particularly aided by the dashboard created under SB 703.

For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 703 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

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Uploaded by: Carla Nelson Chambers

Position: FAV



February 13, 2024

Dear Members of the Committee on Budget and Taxation,

The Nelson Ideation Group, LLC provides management consulting services to public and private sector clients, specializing in appraising diverse certified firms to meet our clients' needs. As Ideation experts, we create business opportunities and provide comprehensive, cost-effective management solutions to implement our clients' ideas and projects, positioning them to be competitive on a local, regional and/or national basis. Our extensive experience in corporate, government and P3 development projects uniquely qualifies us to cultivate critical relationships and create strategic alliances with diverse certified firms, along with developing best practices when needed for those we commit to serve.

We are passionate about the growth and success of our clients.

As Director of Minority & Women-owned Business and Development Director of Minority & Women-owned Business Development for the City of Baltimore from 2007 through 2011 I was responsible for implementing the Mayor's agenda of the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) program for the City of Baltimore. My role required me to focus on advocating, educating, informing, and promoting the interests of Small, Minority and Women owned businesses in the City of Baltimore as well as reviewing, interpreting, evaluating, and implementing inter-departmental policies, practices, and procedures. In addition, I monitored the efficacy and compliance with City, State, and Federal laws and regulations.

I am enthusiastic about the State of Maryland taking this important step forward in providing the public sector, legislators, private businesses and minority, women and veteran-owned advocacy groups on data that will give all stakeholders an opportunity to see just where we are as a State in achieving the aspirational goal of 29% minority procurements of State contracting opportunities. Providing accurate data on procurement contracts with minority-owned enterprises, women-owned businesses, and veteran owned businesses is another step in the effort to let all Marylanders know where we stand toward goals set back in 2001, that we are still working towards.

The transparency objective will only be effective if the Board of Public Works creates a dashboard that presents information in such a way that it is accessible, easily found, and easy to operate and accurate. The State will need to invest in staff that understand the Dashboard's importance, relevance to meeting the MBE goals, the need to maintain its accuracy and keep the information up to date. Finally, the dashboard should be compatible with the state's Open Budget system to allow for future, potential integration of vendor payments data.

SB 0703 FAV

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FAV



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 703 – Board of Public Works – Transparency Dashboard

DATE: February 14, 2024
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

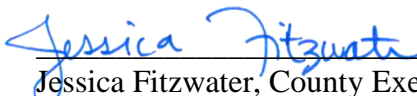
As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 703 – Board of Public Works – Transparency Dashboard a favorable report.

This bill will require the Comptroller to develop and maintain a procurement dashboard on the Comptroller’s website. The bill also includes an appropriation in the annual budget bill for one full-time position to develop and maintain the dashboard.

Transparency of information and access to public processes are key components of accountability and democracy. The Board of Public Works and the Comptroller play crucial roles in government spending so their processes and actions should be transparent and accessible to the public. This is particularly important regarding the State’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) goals.

This will also assist county and local governments in tracking projects that are being considered by the Board of Public Works. SB 703 has the potential to streamline processes for both local governments and members of the general public, while also making government spending more transparent.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 703. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD

SB 703 - CBF - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 703

Board of Public Works – Transparency Dashboard

Date: February 14, 2024

To: Budget & taxation Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Matt Stegman
Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 703, which would direct the Office of the Comptroller to create and provide staff and technical support to maintain a publicly accessible Board of Public Works Transparency Dashboard. Similar transparency tools have been successfully implemented by local governments throughout Maryland, including Baltimore City and Baltimore County. These tools provide a valuable resource for vendors and the public to see and understand where State funds are being spent.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 703.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.