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Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 16, 2024

**RE: Senate Bill 248 Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governing Board Membership**

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of **SB0248 Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governing Board Membership**. § 23.202.1. Libraries – Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements passed during the 2023 session but was amended by the House Ways and Means Committee during the last week of the session. Unfortunately, the amendment arose from a misunderstanding of the Regional Library's responsibilities.

The proposed revision in SB0248 will expand the diversity of the Regional Resource Center Boards by allowing two community members from each county rather than just one in addition to a member who is also part of the Board of the public library of that county. Calvert Library is making strides to have a diverse board of library trustees that represents the residents of our county. We have diversity of work experience, age, race and gender. However, the board members who are available to serve on our board as well as the Southern Maryland Regional Library Board, are a much more limited subset of our total Board. Providing the Regional Library with the same ability that the county public library has to recruit Board members who represent the breadth of our communities would make all of us better.

This revision addresses these issues and brings regional resource centers into alignment with how they serve the community. It is important that the Regional Resource Center Board composition reflect the communities served.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carrie Willson".

Carrie Willson  
Executive Director, Calvert Library

