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Education, Energy, and  
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Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 2, 2024

The House Environment and Transportation Committee  
SB 763 – Somerset County – Sale of Property – Revells Neck Road  
Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza

Thank you Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the distinguished House Environment and Transportation Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 763 – Somerset County – Sale of Property – Revells Neck Road. The crossfile, House Bill 977, unanimously passed the House before Crossover.

This local, enabling legislation would authorize the Somerset County Commissioners to sell in whole or in part Somerset County Industrial Park located on Revells Neck Road under terms agreed to by the Somerset County Commissioners.

Nineteen years ago, Somerset County officials signed a memorandum of understanding with Wal-Mart which promised to open a general merchandise distribution center that would employ as many as 450 people. In anticipation of this distribution center, the property was rezoned from Agricultural-Residential to Light Industrial and the county and State invested in upgrades including a traffic light at the intersection at U.S. 13 and Revells Neck Road. Unfortunately, this distribution center never materialized.

In 2023, Somerset County used \$3.3 million from the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund to purchase the 167 acres from the estate of the late Mitchell Bonneville Jr. who had purchased the property from Wal-Mart in 2019 before his passing.

Under current law, Somerset County would only be able to sell this surplus property by sealed bid or by public auction. Somerset County simply wants the authority to be able to negotiate the sale of this property. The Somerset County Commissioners fully intend to create an industrial park for single and multiple site development at this property, and this legislation would enable the Somerset County Commissioners to achieve this goal.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 763, this local Somerset County bill.