

JOHNNY RAY SALLING  
*Legislative District 6*  
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Finance Committee  
Senator Pamela Beidle  
Senator Katherine Klausmeier  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and esteemed Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for Maryland Senate Bill 1188, also known as the Maryland Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade (PORT) Act.

The recent tragedy of the collapse of the Key Bridge has devastated lives in our local area and has had a catastrophic effect on national and international commerce. This incident has highlighted the urgent need for investments in infrastructure and the importance of initiatives like the PORT Act, which promote regional trade and economic resilience.

The collapse of the Key Bridge has resulted in many people losing their jobs and business prospects, making it imperative to enact measures that facilitate economic recovery and resilience. By easing regulatory burdens, the PORT Act will not only spur innovation and job creation but also provide much-needed support to those affected by the bridge collapse.

However, I would like to draw attention to an amendment that our office has proposed, which seeks to strike provisions requiring the repayment of funds allocated under the PORT Act. It is our belief that no business or individual should be deterred from accepting much-needed financial support simply because it is not sourced directly from the State. By removing these repayment requirements, we can ensure that the benefits of the PORT Act are accessible to all, regardless of the funding source.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Maryland Senate Bill 1188 and the important goals it seeks to achieve. By reducing regulatory burdens, and ensuring equitable access to support, this bill will play a vital role in strengthening Maryland's economy and fostering prosperity for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I would urge a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling