



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 13, 2025

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Support for Senate Bill 698-Washington County-Sales and Use Tax Exemption-Target  
Redevelopment Area**

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County (the "Board") unanimously supports the passage of SB 698. This bill would offer a sales tax exemption for construction materials purchased for the purpose of developing Mount Aetna Technology Park in Washington County. Mount Aetna Technology Park has been undeveloped and underutilized since the construction of Yale Road in 2016. It is currently being leased as agricultural land by the County. However, it is strategically located near Hagerstown Community College, Meritus Medical Center, and the new Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine. This proposed bill would encourage the development of Mount Aetna Technology Park by a technology or research focused company that could take advantage of the strategic location of Mount Aetna Technology Park.

The bill in question is narrowly tailored and would only apply to building materials purchased for construction by a company that has already committed to a substantial project in Mount Aetna Technology Park. The revenue lost by the State from the sale of construction materials would be negligible in comparison to the future tax revenue generated by a research or technology company in an area of land which is currently undeveloped. SB 698 represents the loss of a nominal amount of revenue that would attract a major taxpayer who will support the State for decades to come and is consistent with the ideals of Governor Moore's economic growth agenda.

For these reasons, the Board strongly supports the passage of SB 698 and urges the Committee to support it.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 

John F. Barr, President

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