

Letter of Support SB698.pdf

Uploaded by: Amanda Brooks

Position: FAV



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

109 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 | Hagerstown, MD 21740 | P: 240.313.2200 | F: 240.313.2201 | TDD: 711

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Uploaded by: ANDREW SERAFINI

Position: FAV



February 14, 2025

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

Re: Support for Senate Bill 698 – Washington County – Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Target Development Area

Dear Senator Guzzone,

On behalf of the CHiEF board, I write to express our strong support for SB 698. CHiEF has worked in the Hagerstown/Washington County area for decades as a non-profit organization promoting and developing economic opportunities for our area. We developed the Mount Aetna Technology Park for very specific types of companies. As it turns out our goals align exactly with Governor Moore's recent commitment to his "Decades" program.

Our intention and belief that with the passage of this bill we can move forward with a very strong package to recruit companies that would bring modern manufacturing and jobs that would align with strategic opportunities to grow and diversify Maryland's economy. Our analysis indicates that the State could recoup any foregone tax receipts within a relatively short period of time. This does not account for the economic activity and other financial benefits to the State.

We strongly encourage your committee and your support for SB698.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew A. Serafini". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Andrew A. Serafini – CHiEF Board Member

GHC SB698 Support Letter 2-14-2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Jim Kercheval

Position: FAV



Greater Hagerstown Committee

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB-698 - Washington County - Sales and Use Tax Exemption - Target Redevelopment Area

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing to express our strong support for SB-698, a crucial bill that would provide a Sales and Use Tax exemption within the Mt. Aetna Technology Park (MATH) of Hagerstown. This legislation will be instrumental in helping our community market an area originally purchased nearly 20 years ago by our local industrial foundation, CHIEF, with the intention of fostering high-tech development.

GHC is a nonprofit organization of over 100 corporate executives and community leaders dedicated to improving the quality of life in Washington County. Our member companies employ more than 10,000 individuals in the region. For over 35 years, GHC has collaborated with public officials and community stakeholders to advance initiatives that enhance our community and foster economic growth. This includes our ongoing support for projects like MATH.

MATH spans approximately 150 acres of prime real estate, strategically located between the Meritus Medical Campus, the new Meritus Medical School, and Hagerstown Community College, which houses our local business incubator. Over the last 15 years, CHIEF has worked with local, state, and federal partners to develop the necessary infrastructure for this site, including the completion of Yale Drive in 2016 and Professional Blvd Phase 2 last year. These infrastructure improvements have created multiple pad-ready sites, supported by robust utilities, including water, sewer, electricity, cellular, and fiber networks.

Diversifying our local economy has long been a cornerstone of our county's economic development strategy. Our region has successfully attracted a range of industries, including retail, manufacturing, financial services, logistics, and defense. However, as the cost of living rises, we face a shortage of higher-paying jobs in advanced technical fields. High-tech industries, such as biosciences, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing, tend to cluster in established hubs, which presents a challenge in attracting them to new locations. Despite several inquiries over the years, we have yet to secure a high-tech anchor company for MATH.

The proposed Sales and Use Tax exemption would provide a critical economic incentive to help attract these targeted industries to MATH. By securing an anchor company, we are confident that other high-tech businesses will follow, further enhancing our region's economic landscape.

We respectfully request your support of SB-698 to help us advance our efforts to diversify and strengthen our local economy. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Kercheval, Executive Director

The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc.

Email: jkercheval@greaterhagerstown.org

Phone: 301.733.8811 (office) or 301.992.7515 (mobile)



Letter of Support SB698 Sales and Use Tax Exemp MA

Uploaded by: Michelle Gordon

Position: FAV



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.

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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

109 West Washington Street, Suite 1101 | Hagerstown, MD 21740 | P: 240.313.2200 | F: 240.313.2201 | TDD: 711

SB 698 - Senator Corderman Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 403
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3903 · 301-858-3903
800-492-7122 Ext. 3903
Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 18, 2025

Senate Budget & Tax Committee
Chair Guy Guzzone
Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 698 to you today. This bill will provide a sales and use tax exemption for construction materials and warehousing equipment used in the Target Redevelopment Area in Washington County. SB698 will contribute to the revitalization and expansion of the Mount Aetna Technology Park, which is poised to become a key asset to the region.

The proposed exemption from the sales and use tax for construction materials and warehousing equipment is a critical step in making the Target Redevelopment Area more attractive to potential investors and incentivizing the development of the Mount Aetna Technology Park in Washington County which will enhance the region's ability to attract high-tech industries, research centers, and manufacturing operations.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 698.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul D. Corderman'.

Paul D. Corderman
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties

Wash Co Chamber Letter of Support SB 698.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Frey

Position: FAV

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Dear Chair Guzzone and Distinguished Committee Members,

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of almost 675 members representing over 40,000 employees, supports **Senate Bill 698 – Washington County – Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Target Redevelopment Area**, and we respectfully ask you to vote in support of this legislation.

The Mount Aetna Technology Park is perfectly located between Meritus Health (including the new Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine) and Hagerstown Community College. The property is “shovel ready.” It is an outstanding location for the immediate development for critical businesses that complement the work at Meritus and its medical school, as well as the students at Hagerstown Community College.

Providing an exemption from sales and use taxes for construction material or warehousing equipment, that supports the approved development on the Mount Aetna Technology Park property, will allow for expedited growth and development. The winners will be local commerce, local labor force, and the State of Maryland.

Again, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our almost 675 members representing over 40,000 employees, supports **Senate Bill 698 – Washington County – Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Target Redevelopment Area**, and we respectfully ask you to vote in support of this legislation.

Please contact me at 301-739-2015, ext. 102, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul Frey, IOM
President & CEO