



Wes Moore  
Governor  
Aruna Miller  
Lieutenant Governor  
Kathryn Thomson  
Acting Secretary

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 53 – Maryland Port Administration – Acquisition of Land in Anne Arundel County – Notice of Public Hearing***

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) takes no position on Senate Bill 53 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

The Port of Baltimore has a 320-year history of delivering economic prosperity through trade in the largest estuary in the United States. For generations, the MPA has been committed to supporting Maryland's economic vitality while at the same time caring for and protecting our environment and improving the lives of our neighbors. Stakeholders play a vital role in shaping the Port and their input has driven efforts to enhance transparency and collaboration.

Under current law, the MPA must notify Anne Arundel County (County) in writing prior to acquiring any interest in land or improvements on land in the County. The County may hold a public hearing after receiving the MPA's written request for acquisition. SB 53 would impose a requirement on the MPA to provide written notice of the County's public hearing announcement to the Anne Arundel County Delegation two weeks prior to the County's announcement being issued.

As the County is responsible for holding the meeting, which includes scheduling and ensuring that the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, including public notice, are met, the MPA may not be privy to the County's announcement of a public hearing with sufficient time to provide the written notice required under the bill. If the County is receptive to the following, the MPA proposes an amendment to consider replacing the MPA with the County to provide written notice to the delegation two weeks prior to the issuance of the County's public hearing announcement. This amendment would address practical concerns associated with implementation of the bill.

The MPA values transparency and collaboration and respects the County's authority to set the public hearing process. The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the committee consider this information and the proposed amendment during its deliberation of Senate Bill 53.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Daniels  
Executive Director  
Maryland Port Administration  
410-385-4829

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090