

SB 53 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

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Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 53 – AACo Port Notification

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 53.

This bill requires notification to the Anne Arundel County delegation when the Port Administration wants to acquire or develop land in our county.

I will give the committee our Senate Delegation's letter after we meet.

I ask for your favorable consideration.

SUPPORT OF BILL20250321_11220332.pdf

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Position: FAV

I SUPPORT THIS BILL:BECAUSE

THIS BILL AS WRITTEN DOES WARRANT ITS EXPENSE

Tom Wieland

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SB0053 - LOI - MPA - Acquisition of Land in Anne A

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

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
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Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
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