May 26, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. President of the Senate State House Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 902 - *Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund*.

This bill establishes the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund as a special fund for specified purposes; provides for the administration of the Fund; provides for the disbursement of money from the Fund equally among specified purposes; authorizes the inclusion of appropriations in the State budget in specified fiscal years; provides for the award of grants from the Fund for specified purposes; requires an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly; and states findings of the General Assembly.

House Bill 1487, which was passed by the General Assembly and allowed to go into effect without my signature, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 902.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor