



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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February 5, 2020

Appropriations Committee
Attn.: Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Bldg., Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Committee Members:

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 737, in the form attached hereto, which proposes to extend the minimum disparity grant of 67.5% of the uncapped grant amount for counties that have an income tax rate of 3.2% for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The disparity grant program provides noncategorical State aid to low-wealth jurisdictions, like Wicomico County, to help fund public services. The disparity grant addresses the differences in the abilities of counties to raise revenues from the local income tax.

Wicomico County in fiscal year 19 qualified for disparity grant funding in the amount of \$8,970,144, which helped pay to resurface 89.5 miles of roads in Wicomico County, as well as improve the condition of the County parks and recreation areas. The Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport also benefits from the disparity grant as it continues to make improvements to the facility and runways. The disparity grant also helped fund three new positions in the Sheriff's Office in 2019 to increase its efforts in addressing the opioid epidemic, responding to calls and traffic enforcement.

Thanks to the disparity grant funding, Wicomico County is a more attractive place to live, work and visit. This valuable state funding must be maintained to assist in our efforts to improve the quality of life in Wicomico County.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Council Office at 410-548-4696.

Sincerely,

Larry W. Dodd,
County Council President

cc: Wicomico County Council