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SB 794

County Boards of Education – Establishing Regional Career and
Technical Education Schools – Authority

Position: **SUPPORT** Date: March 3, 2020
To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

The Caroline County Commissioners **SUPPORT** SB 794, County Boards of Education – Establishing Regional Career and Technical Education Schools – Authority.

This bill would authorize county boards of education to establish a regional Career and Technical Education (CTE school). The Commissioners recognize that such a regional school would give counties the opportunity to pool resources and affect a larger population of CTE students, rather than relying on solely on individual county programs. This would ensure that students have access to more variety and higher quality CTE programs, which in turn would enable the school system to better respond to the workforce needs of the region.

The Caroline County Commissioners are strong supporters of CTE programs. We believe that they help to keep talented young people local, sustain our economy, and enable our businesses to thrive and grow. We have taken many steps at the County level to enhance our CTE programs, but additional regional flexibility would enable us to offer the programs that are readily available on the western shore but have lagged behind in our area due to a lack of resources.

A regional approach to CTE can be a force multiplier for student success and economic growth. The Commissioners therefore respectfully urge your committee to issue a favorable report on SB 794.

Sincerely,

Larry C. Porter, President