

**Board of County
Commissioners**

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Carroll County Government

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February 20, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: HB610 – Carroll County – Contracts and Purchases - SUPPORT

Dear Delegate Barve and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of **HB610 – Carroll County – Contracts and Purchases**. In contracting for any necessary public work improvements, or for the purchase of supplies and equipment needed at any time by the County, the County Commissioners of Carroll County may enter into contracts for such, on an order passed by the County Commissioners. This is provided that the cost of the public work or improvement, or the purchase price of the supplies and equipment, does not exceed \$25,000. For any contract exceeding that \$25,000 limit, a public process must take place that requires public notice, and extends the timeline for awarding the successful bid. We are proposing to raise the limit from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

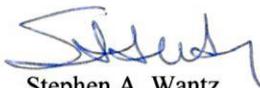
The practice of authorizing the county's purchasing agent to enter into contracts under a specified amount is common in numerous Maryland counties, and a small number of bids fall into this category. In the previous fiscal year, the County awarded 26 formal bids totaling just over \$20.5 million. One bid fell under the \$25,000 limit, with one additional bid falling under the proposed \$35,000 limit. The last time this issue was addressed was in 2001, when the amount was raised from \$11,000.00 to the current \$25,000. Accounting for inflation, \$25,000 in 2001 dollars equals just over \$36,000 in today's dollars.

It is important to note that the purchases in question have been properly budgeted and authorized by the County Commissioners. Raising this minimum threshold will allow the County Commissioners to continue to authorize the Chief of the Bureau of Purchasing to approve these smaller bids, and eliminate unnecessary administrative effort.

For these reasons we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report.

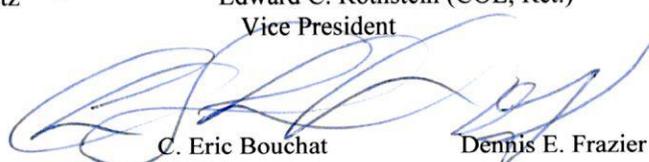
Sincerely,

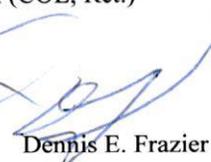
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY


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