

JACK BAILEY  
*Legislative District 29*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 23, 2021

**Senate Bill 51 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Property Management – Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 51 – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Property Management – Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center. This bill would authorize the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to act as the property manager for the new Regional Agricultural Center which is currently being built in Charlotte Hall.

The Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) will be a tremendous resource for the agricultural community in St. Mary's County and the four other counties throughout the region. When completed, the RAC will include a retail storefront, a commercial kitchen, fresh and frozen storage capability, facilities to cut and wrap meats, and space for educational and apprenticeship programs. The facility is an initiative of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), which is part of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland.

While St. Mary's County will own the facility, SMADC will be handling its day-to-day operations. In finalizing these arrangements, SMADC's counsel found that the law outlining the powers of the Tri-County Council did not grant them the authority to manage this property. St. Mary's County, the Tri-County Council, and SMADC all agree that SMADC should act as the property manager for the RAC. Senate Bill 51 will institute the technical change necessary to allow the Tri-County Council to act as property manager, which will in turn allow SMADC to operate the RAC, reflecting how all parties involved want to move forward and putting the statute in line with the memorandum of understanding for this project.

This bill has the support of the Southern Maryland Delegation. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 51. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties