



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

The Board of County Commissioners

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January 22, 2021

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County to voice our support for **HB 532: Allegany County – Video Lottery Terminals – Distribution of Proceeds**. The bill will modify the distribution of proceeds to the County through local impact grants by increasing it to 5.5% from 3.75%. The local impact grants we currently receive fund worthwhile and impactful initiatives supported by the Board of County Commissioners. That includes the Opportunity Scholarship for local students at Allegany College of Maryland and Frostburg State University. Through these funds, students who would not otherwise be eligible for the State's Promise grants, are receiving a quality education and workforce training that leads to employment in in-demand occupations. The funds also are key for funding a part of the County's emergency management services and provides grants to volunteer fire companies.

The increased appropriation will allow the County to deal with the escalating costs associated with emergency response as well as continue to provide a talent pipeline for the region's employers, including Rocky Gap Casino. In short, we are respectfully requesting the Committee's **FAVORABLE** consideration of the bill. I will also be on hand to testify on this measure and look forward to addressing the Committee's questions in regard to the same.

Sincerely,

Jacob C. Shade, President
Allegany County Board of County Commissioners