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St. Mary's County Public Schools

Central Administration

Office of the Superintendent
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Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent

March 4, 2021

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB1022: State Highway Administration – Route 5
Reconstruction Project at Great Mills

Dear Chair McIntosh,

St. Mary's County Public Schools offers its full support for HB1022 State Highway Administration – Route 5 Reconstruction Project at Great Mills, which will assist with easing congestion, lowering accident risk, and reducing the transportation time for students attending six schools that are required to utilize this intersection. There are 108 St. Mary's County Public School bus routes that travel through this location daily. As one of two access points between southern St. Mary's County and northern St. Mary's County, this is a major thoroughfare for citizens that work in the defense industry with offices along the Great Mills Road corridor and those working at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division Webster Outlying Field, which supports the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) 4.11 and NAWCAD 5.1.11, Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes and a component of the Maryland Army National Guard. In addition, staff and students from St. Mary's College also use this intersection.

The area is designated as a Priority Funding area and residential developments in this area are designated as high-density as part of the Lexington Park Development District. The area is prime for additional growth through a grandfathered Planned Unit Development that could add significant population to this corridor. To support further residential development, the school system acquired a parcel of land in this corridor that could be the site for a future school capacity.

I am in favor of passage of this legislation for this regionally significant rural project.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent