

Nancy Easterling SB 913 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Nancy Easterling

Position: FAV

Testimony for SB 913—Operational Funding for Historic Sotterley, Inc.

I am Nancy Easterling, the Executive Director for Historic Sotterley, Inc., located in St. Mary's County, Maryland, and am writing in support of SB 913. Sotterley is a 300 year old National Historic Landmark and historic museum site which interprets our complex, and often difficult, shared history. It offers a full range of programming to include education programs and field trips, tours, cultural events, recreational opportunities, a working farm that donates produce to our local community, our Common Ground Initiative supported by our Descendant community, and much more. Historic Sotterley is truly an exceptional educational and cultural resource for our community, our State, and our Nation.

Historic sites connect people to the past in a way no other museum can, especially places like Historic Sotterley because of its many original buildings including its 1830's Slave Cabin and Manor House dating back to 1703, as well as its incredible landscape overlooking the Patuxent River. Sotterley is also unique, however, in the way it tells its three century history. Sotterley has been dedicated to telling an honest and inclusive history of all those who lived and labored there, including those who were enslaved, and it has been committed to that path over two decades—far longer than almost any other plantation site in this country. Sotterley understands that we cannot truly understand our present without understanding our past, and that if we are able to acknowledge those realities, we can start to shape a better future together. Because of the interpretive advances that have taken place at Sotterley in the last decade, it has received two international designations: a Middle Passage Port Marker Site, and a UNESCO Slave Route Site of Memory.

Sotterley has an thriving and ever-growing Descendant community that welcomes people from all aspects of Sotterley's history. Descendants not only help us expand our knowledge of Sotterley's past through their research and family histories, but they serve in leadership roles, shaping Sotterley's present and its future. Sotterley Descendants serve on the Board of Trustees, serve on committees, take part in public programming such as its Common Ground Initiative, and more. They model for this State and Nation that people can come from very different backgrounds and still have constructive dialogues with honesty and respect.

Promoting equity on many fronts is at the heart of what Sotterley represents. From inclusive, STEAM focused programming for students, exceptional visitor programs that tell a holistic story of our shared past, and its Growing for Good Initiative which has donated over 90,000 lbs. of produce to those in need in Southern Maryland over the last eight years, at Sotterley we know that we can build a better community together.

While Sotterley has never waived in its dedication to improving how we serve our community and to advancing Sotterley's stories and mission, it has often been a challenge to do so. Historic Sotterley operates without an endowment, does not have governmental support outside of the grants it receives, and has to earn and raise the majority of its budget every year. Sotterley has long been dependent upon special events and earned income, and even without a pandemic, this has been a difficult way to support and advance its mission. This historic site is like no other in Maryland or truly anywhere in this nation, and it is an invaluable and irreplaceable resource. Support for SB 913 will give Sotterley the ability to expand its critically important mission by addressing such needs as restoration of historic structures, infrastructure upgrades to improve our operations, enhancing accessibility to the site, and expanding our impactful programming. By investing in Sotterley through this bill, the State of Maryland will invest in preserving and promoting an understanding of the realities of our shared history, and in Sotterley's commitment to bettering the lives of our citizens.

SB 913 Letter of Support - St. Mary's County.pdf

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

Senate Bill 913
Board of Public Works – Sotterley Plantation – Operating Grant

SUPPORT

March 15, 2022

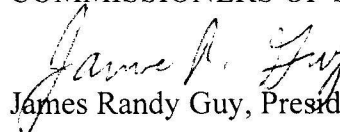
The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County SUPPORT SB 913 – Board of Public Works – Sotterley Plantation – Operating Grant which will be heard in the Budget and Taxation Committee.

We support SB 913 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2022/095

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
John S. Houser, Assistant County Attorney

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

Senate Bill 913
Board of Public Works – Sotterley Plantation – Operating Grant

SUPPORT

March 15, 2022

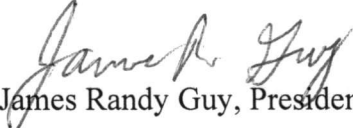
The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County SUPPORT SB 913 – Board of Public Works – Sotterley Plantation – Operating Grant which will be heard in the Budget and Taxation Committee.

We support SB 913 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2022/095

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator
John S. Houser, Assistant County Attorney

SB0913-843122-01.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FWA



SB0913/843122/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

07 MAR 22
19:43:00

BY: Senator Bailey

(To be offered in the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 913

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**Sotterley Plantation**” and substitute “**Historic Sotterley**”; and in lines 5 and 6, in each instance, strike “Sotterley Plantation” and substitute “Historic Sotterley”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 13, strike “Sotterley Plantation” and substitute “Historic Sotterley”.

SenatorBailey_FWA_SB913.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FWA

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 402
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3673 · 301-858-3673
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Dorsey Professional Park
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101
Hollywood, Maryland 20636
240-309-4238

March 16, 2022

Senate Bill 913 – Board of Public Works – Sotterley Plantation – Operating Grant

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 913 – Board of Public Works – Sotterley Plantation – Operating Grant. This bill would provide an operating grant of \$500,000 to Historic Sotterley, which is located in St. Mary's County, in each of the next three fiscal years.

As many of you know, I often talk about the rich history located in District 29. As a UNESCO Site of Memory and a National Historic Landmark, Sotterley is a very important part of that history. Speaking from personal experience having attended a number of programs held at Sotterley, I know that they are dedicated to preserving our history and telling the full story of St. Mary's County and of Maryland, and, in turn, of our country. I also know that there are members of this Committee who have visited Sotterley to learn more about their preservation efforts. As one example of how they fulfill their mission and work to tell this story is through working with the Maryland State Department of Education to provide educational programs for our State's students.

The General Assembly has recognized and supported Historic Sotterley's important work with capital grants in 2016 and 2020. However, this additional support is necessary because Sotterley does not have an endowment and operates only on earned income. These funds would help Historic Sotterley maintain and grow their educational mission.

This bill sunsets on June 30, 2026. I am submitting an amendment with this bill that corrects references to Historic Sotterley in the bill. I respectfully request a favorable report with amendments on Senate Bill 913. 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

SB 913 Sotterley Plantation-Op Grant (Bailey) B&T

Uploaded by: Barbara Wilkins

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 913 Board of Public Works - Sotterley Plantation - Operating Grant (Bailey)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 16, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 913 mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 in FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026 for the Board of Public Works to provide an operating grant to the Board of Historic Sotterley, Inc., for the design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and general operations and expenses of Sotterley Plantation (Hollywood).

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the aggregate \$1.5 million mandated appropriation provision that impacts the FY 2024 through FY 2026 budgets.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which will require spending allocations for FY 2024 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2022.

Changes to the Maryland Constitution in 2020 provide the General Assembly with additional budgetary authority, beginning in the 2023 Session, to realign total spending by increasing and adding items to appropriations in the budget submitted by the Governor. The legislature's new budgetary power diminishes, if not negates, the need for mandated appropriation bills.

Fully funding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) will require fiscal discipline in the years ahead, if the State is to maintain the current projected structural budget surpluses. Mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of this education funding priority and the Governor's tax relief proposals.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19. High rates of inflation and workforce shortages may be short lived or persist, thereby impacting the Maryland economy. While current budget forecasts project structural surpluses, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability. The Department continues to urge the General Assembly to focus on maintaining the structural budget surplus.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at (410) 260-6371
or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**

45 Calvert Street · Annapolis, MD 21401-1907

Tel: 410-260-7041 · Fax: 410-974-2585 · Toll Free: 1-800-705-3493 · TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay

<http://dbm.maryland.gov>