

Brooke Lierman
Comptroller

Wes Moore
Governor

Dereck E. Davis
Treasurer

Joint Testimony in Support of HB 498
Board of Public Works Public Comment Act
Appropriations Committee, February 21, 2023

The Governor's Office, State Treasurer's Office and Comptroller's Office respectfully request that the Committee give favorable consideration to House Bill 498, legislation that requires the Board of Public Works (BPW) to allow members of the public to electronically submit public comments on agenda items.

This legislation will enhance communication and transparency by codifying and formalizing the practice for public comment. Today, Marylanders relay feedback on important State business by different, disjointed, or often redundant channels. Some citizens e-mail BPW staff directly, while other citizens reach out to the Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer jointly or separately through various means. House Bill 498 will help to streamline the process by setting up a system for receiving, distributing, posting, and retaining electronic communications meant for public comment. With information flowing more freely and clearly between the members and the public, House Bill 498 will provide greater transparency and opportunities for public engagement, and it will improve the way in which BPW functions.

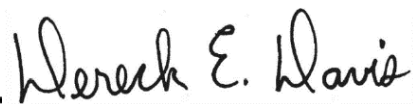
For these reasons, we request a favorable report on House Bill 498.



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