



**Harford County
Public Library**

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March 1, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Finance Committee
3 E Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 501 – Libraries – Aging Infrastructure Capital Improvement Grant Program – Established - SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair and members of the Finance Committee,

The Harford County Library system strongly supports SB 501. Our system shares an aging infrastructure with many systems across Maryland as we strive to serve our customers with upgraded technology and community gathering areas which are warm and inviting.

Senate Bill 501 provides a beginning 40-million-dollar annual appropriation and requires a 20% match from any combination of county, municipal or private source such as our own fundraising in the community.

Establishment of this capital program will begin to address the backlog of repairs, renovations including technical upgrades and roof replacement projects. Harford County Library system alone has 7 facilities between 11 and 25 years of age and 4 that fall between 26 and 50 years old. The bill has a clear and balance application process for review of submitted capital projects.

Harford County Library appreciates your support of our libraries across Maryland, and we would respectfully request a FAVORABLE report for Senate Bill 501.

Sincerely,

Mary Hastler, CEO