



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**SB 501 - Libraries – Aging Infrastructure Capital Improvement Grant**  
**Program**  
**February 27, 2023 – Support**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Committee Members,

I am writing in **support of SB 501 Libraries – Aging Infrastructure Capital Improvement Grant Program**. Since 2015, Anne Arundel County Public Libraries have received \$5.1 million in capital grant funds through the State Grant Program for County Public Library Capital Projects. While these funds have helped us build the new Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library and are aiding our current construction of the Riviera Beach Library, the program itself only awards \$7.5 million annually in capital grants for the whole state, which consists of 24 county library systems!

Nearly 60% of our 17 library locations (16 branches and 1 administrative office) are over 25 years old and 18% of our branches are over 50 years old. Many of our buildings were built before ADA compliance requirements were established. Built before the internet, our electrical systems in those buildings are woefully inadequate for the technology needs of today's workforce development. Additionally, we regularly have to close buildings for the day when the HVAC systems are not functioning properly.

Our needed building repair projects must be added to a long list of backlogged items, which have been carried over for years as funding runs out. SB 501 would allow libraries to invest in older buildings sooner so that we can continue to serve residents. As centers of our communities, libraries have provided COVID test kits and PPE, helped distribute food to the needy, provide a safe gathering place for students after school, help entrepreneurs and jobseekers retool and find work and provide enriching programs for all ages. Capital grant programs for libraries offer a tremendous return on investment for Maryland. I urge your support of SB 501.

Sincerely,

Skip Auld, AACPL Chief Executive Officer

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