



Dana Newman
Director

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Dear Senator Hershey:

The Talbot County Free Library strongly supports SB 0831 Libraries-Regional Resource Centers-Governance which ensures the continuance of strong and adaptive regional libraries whose trustees' valued skill sets directly contribute to mission accomplishment and to the libraries' prominence in their region. As you are well aware, the Regional Libraries provide much support (staff development, delivery of materials across libraries, technology, grant funding and many other resources) for the individual library systems they represent. Without this support, these small, rural, individual systems would not be able to deliver the wealth of services and resources that they do to all of our patrons, residents, and visitors.

This bill helps to keep the structure of the regional libraries strong and the community-based membership that the bill proposes allows regional libraries to recruit board members who can advance the regional library agenda--community leaders, attorneys, financial experts, fund raisers, and advocates. This broadens and elevates the regional library as an entity mindful of larger community issues such as economic development, health, transportation, and public safety--versus looking internally to county library issues. It also clarifies what other sections of the law apply to regional libraries, including the Open Meetings Act, how library records are secured, the submission of annual audits to the State, and the regional library board appointment process.

TCFL urges your support of SB 0831. Thank you very much for your continued support of Maryland libraries and regional libraries.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana Newman
Director