



Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB831 – Libraries - Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements
February 22, 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, and Vice Chair Kagen, and Committee members:

I am writing in **Support of SB831 Regional Resource Centers – Governance Requirements.**

The current code that governs the Regional Resource Centers was passed into law in 1957. Although the law worked well for decades, the regional resource centers have evolved into a major influential force for the fourteen county library systems they support.

The governing boards of the three regional resource centers have developed in different ways. They may be county library board trustees, county citizens, or county library directors. Terms range from no term limits, to one and three years. There is no unified guidance from the current statute, which is unclear on basic governance such as the roles and responsibilities of the boards, officer qualifications, term limits, meetings, attendance, role of library management staff, etc. SB831 contains specific language that defines the governance of the regional resource centers and has been vetted and approved by the regional resource center directors, their current boards, the directors and boards of the fourteen county libraries served, as well as the Maryland State Library Agency.

Thank you for your continued support of public libraries and, by extension, our ability to provide equal service to all Maryland. I respectfully request your support of SB831. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Ranck".

Jennifer Ranck
Director