



*Charles County Government*

**CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**Mark Belton**  
County Administrator

March 7, 2023

Bill: HB 1037 Economic Development – Tri–County Council for Southern Maryland Membership  
Committee: House – Environment and Transportation  
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Madam Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and Committee Members:

The County Commissioners of Charles County support House Bill 1037— Economic Development – Tri–County Council for Southern Maryland Membership. The bill provides for the addition of one voting member for every 45,000 residents from each participating county, to be appointed by the commissioners of the county.

Our Board of Charles County Commissioners supports the mission of Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and recognizes the importance of the Council to the region. The proposed changes in membership would allow for more involvement from our community members that reflects the proportional impact of the Council’s decisions on the affected communities. We believe the decisions of the Council that impact our region, to include transportation coordination, agricultural development, workforce development, and veterans support, warrant more direct input from our residents. There are significant demographic differences between Charles County and our regional partner counties of Calvert and St. Mary’s, that deserve consideration as TCCSMD works towards identifying and executing regional priorities.

Enhanced input from citizen appointments to the TCCSMD add legitimacy to the decisions made and provide an opportunity for varying perspectives and experiences to inform the discussion. For the reasons stated, we urge a favorable report by the Senate Finance Committee for HB 1037 Economic Development – Tri–County Council for Southern Maryland Membership.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President of Charles County Commissioners.

County Commissioners of Charles County  
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Delegation