

SB539. Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Danielle Mitchell

Position: FAV



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*
Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton
County Administrator

February 21, 2023

Bill: SB 539 Economic Development – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
Membership
Committee: Senate – Finance
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Madam Chair Griffith, Vice Chairwoman Klausmeier, and Committee Members:

The County Commissioners of Charles County support Senate Bill 539— 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 SB 539 Economic Development – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland Membership.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

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

cc: Charles County Delegation

CalvertCounty_UNF_SB0539.pdf

Uploaded by: John Norris

Position: UNF



CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
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Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Senator Melony Griffith, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB0539 – Economic Development – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Membership

Chair Griffith:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes to **OPPOSE SB0539** and urge the Committee to publish an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT** so that the three counties can reach an understanding and agreements, where they can be found, prior to your next session.

Some background seems in order since we find no recent record of discussion regarding the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland in this Finance Committee. The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland was founded in 1964 as a cooperative planning and development unit for the region that includes Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. Each of the three counties currently has equal representation on the Council. This proposed legislation to unbalance the representation of the three partners came as a surprise. It was a surprise not only because it was not discussed previously, but also because it dismantles the collaborative and cooperative nature of the Council that has enabled success in its mission for nearly six decades.

Consider the purpose of the Council to better understand its function in working regional issues that transcend political boundaries to know how this unbalancing is destructive to its mission. The Council's purposes are to: (i) foster the physical, economic, and social development of the region; and (ii) use effectively the assistance provided to the region by the State. To do so, the Council initiates and coordinates complementary plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources of the region as a southern Maryland planning and development unit. Unbalancing the voting welcomes diversion of financial and other resources intended for regional interests to the superpower with elevated voting rights.

The Calvert County Commissioners appreciate the work of the Committee and the short timeline in which you have to consider the needs of the entire State. Given the aggressive timeline of legislative session, we believe we should engage in a conversation with our local partners over the legislative interim to better understand the impetus for this legislation and return with a collaborative plan to move forward for the 2024 session regarding this critical partnership within our region. We look forward to ongoing discussion. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202 or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Mark C. Cox Sr. in blue ink.

Mark C. Cox Sr.

Handwritten signature of Catherine M. Grasso in blue ink.

Catherine M. Grasso

Handwritten signature of Todd Ireland in blue ink.

Todd Ireland

Commissioners of St. Mary's Co OPPOSE SB 539 - Eco

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: UNF

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

Senate Bill 539
Economic Development – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Membership

OPPOSE

February 14, 2023


The Honorable Senator Melony Griffith
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 214013

Dear Chairman Griffith:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **OPPOSE SB 539** – Economic Development – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Membership which is being heard in the Finance Committee.

We oppose SB 539 and urge an unfavorable report. We do not believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf
T:/Consent/2022/040

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Todd Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator/County Attorney
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney