



February 15, 2023

Senate Bill 356

**Transportation - Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities
Surrounding BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport - Modification**

Senate Finance Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 356 – Transportation - Citizens Committee for the Enhancement of Communities Surrounding BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport - Modification. This Bill expands the responsibilities of the Committee to developing projects to improve quality of life in surrounding communities, advancing projects brought to the committee by nonprofit organizations, and making recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation for funding projects that address these matters. It also doubles the minimum annual funding that the Secretary must budget for committee recommended projects.

Currently, grant funding for projects to address transportation issues in the Airport Noise Zone (ANZ) is based on \$1 per inbound or outbound flight, which amounts to approximately \$230,000 annually. This legislation doubles that amount, providing an additional \$230,000 each year to not only address transportation issues, but also fund public safety improvements, quality of life projects, and improve education. With implementation of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), noise complaints in communities surrounding BWI have increased significantly due to altered flight patterns, and the quality of life of residents in the area has been impacted. Projects to ameliorate those impacts require community support and input, as well as funding, and this Bill is an important component in meeting those requirements.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 356.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman
County Executive