

COMMISSIONERS FOR SOMERSET COUNTY

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February 13, 2023

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 427 – Correctional Services-Inmate Release/Letter of Support

Dear Senator Smith and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County wishes to give their strong support of Senate Bill 427- Correctional Services-Inmate Release.

Somerset County, being home to one of the largest prisons in the state of Maryland, Eastern Correctional Institute (ECI) in Westover, Maryland, houses inmates from all over our state. Allowing release of these prisoners in our small and rural county creates a tremendous security risk to our county residents. It should also be noted that release of inmates within our county is also against the wishes of our community when the establishment of the prison was initially discussed, in that the county was asked specifically to not release these inmates in our county to protect the safety of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration, and we therefore strongly recommend a favorable report on SB427.

Sincerely,

Charles Laird
President

Cc: Senator Carozza