

John F. Barr, *President*
Jeffrey A. Cline, *Vice President*



Derek Harvey
Wayne K. Keefer
Randall E. Wagner

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

February 15, 2024

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **House Bill 1021; Washington County-Public Facilities Bonds**

Dear Delegate Barnes:

By a vote of 5-0, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County unanimously supports House Bill 1021. The purpose of HB 1021 is to authorize the County Commissioners of Washington County to borrow not more than \$50,000,000 in order to finance the construction, improvement, or development of certain public facilities in the county, and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and public or private sale of its general obligation bonds in like par amount.

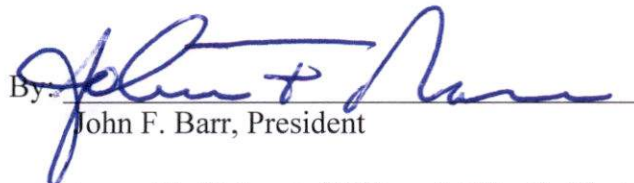
Under the current law, the County Commissioners of Washington County do not have the legislative power to create debt. Instead, General Assembly authorization is required before any bonds can be sold. Washington County's current bond authorization limit is nearing exhaustion and therefore requires reauthorization.

The County Commissioners of Washington County note that a similar bill has been sponsored by the Senators of Carroll County. *See* SB 693. Thus, it is not unusual for commission counties to request reauthorization to issue bonds in order to finance county projects.

For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Committee to approve HB 1021.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 
John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Delegate William J. Wivell, Chair
Washington County Delegation