

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

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February 6, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Senator
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 810 Entitled "Dorchester County-County Property Leases-Notice Exemptions"

Dear Senator Feldman, Chair and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Dorchester County Council, I respectfully offer its support for Senate Bill 810 Entitled "Dorchester County-County Property Leases-Notice Exemptions" for the purpose of exempting a lease of county property for a certain duration made by Dorchester County from certain notice requirements; and, generally relating to notice requirements for leases of county property in Dorchester County.

This proposed bill amends §10-312(f) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland entitled "County property; housing projects; franchise; required notice," as it relates to leases. Under this Section, prior to the leasing of County property, a notice shall be published for three successive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the County. The notice shall include the terms and compensation to be received to provide the opportunity for objection. The County Council is concerned about this publication requirement due to the potential loss of a tenant due to the lengthy advertising process as well as the costs associated with advertising. Therefore, the County Council is seeking an amendment to allow Dorchester County to enter into a lease of County property without giving notice if the lease has a term of 5 years or less. These types of leases will be placed on an open session meeting agenda for the County Council's review and consideration to provide the public with ample opportunity for comment.

We ask that you look favorably upon Senate Bill 810. Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter of support. Please contact the Council's Office at (410) 228-1700 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL

George L. Pfeffer, Jr.
President

jln/dl
cc:

The Honorable Johnny Mautz, Senator
The Honorable Thomas S. Hutchinson, Delegate
The Honorable Christopher T. Adams, Delegate
The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate