



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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Chairwoman Joseline Peña-Melnyk,
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers strong favorable support for House Bill 877 - Board of Public Works - Transparency Dashboard, requiring the Office of the Comptroller to establish and maintain a procurement dashboard on its website. This legislation is a significant step towards enhancing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the procurement processes of our state government. **This bill is on the 2024 legislative priority agenda of the Black Caucus.**

The provisions outlined HB 877 are commendable. Firstly, requiring the procurement dashboard to be public, interactive, and searchable ensures that citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders can easily access and navigate the information they need. This level of accessibility is essential for promoting public trust and facilitating informed decision-making.

Additionally, the requirement for the dashboard to include specified information related to State procurement, as well as compatibility with the Comptroller's online payment processing portal, demonstrates a commitment to comprehensive data integration and usability. By consolidating procurement data and vendor payment information in one accessible platform, the dashboard will enable stakeholders to gain a holistic understanding of procurement activities and expenditures. The dashboard will include information on Board of Public Works (BPW) meeting announcements, agendas, and related materials, as well as details on State procurement preference programs. This transparency regarding procurement processes and preferences is crucial **for promoting fairness, equity, and inclusivity in government contracting.**

Furthermore, the provision requiring the Governor to include an appropriation in the annual budget bill for staffing and software necessary to develop and maintain the dashboard underscores the legislature's commitment to ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of this initiative.

In conclusion, I urge you to support and pass this bill expeditiously. By establishing a procurement dashboard, we can foster greater transparency,

accountability, and efficiency in government procurement processes, ultimately serving the best interests of our citizens and strengthening our democratic institutions. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 877 and asks that you vote favorably on this bill.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland