



City of Frostburg

Todd Logsdon

Mayor

Commissioners

Donald L. Carter, Jr.

*Commissioner of
Finance*

Kevin G. Grove

*Commissioner of Public
Safety*

Nina Forsythe

*Commissioner of
Water, Parks and
Recreation*

Adam Ritchey

*Commissioner of Public
Works*

Hayden Lindsey

Interim City Administrator

Lydia Claar

*Deputy Interim
Administrator*

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator James Rosapepe, Vice-Chair
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
11 Bladen Street
Miller Senate Office Building, 3W
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

[Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary](#), Chair
[Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins](#), Vice-Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill 861/ House Bill 1459: Economic Development - Western Maryland
Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund –
Alterations**

Position: SUPPORT

March 5, 2025

Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

As the Mayor of Frostburg, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation for the ongoing commitment and support that you provide to my residents and to the Western Maryland Region. I humbly write this letter in support of Governor Moore's FY26 budget and the dedicated appropriations to the *George Edwards' Fund (Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Program)*.

For Frostburg, we want to see new growth being invested in diverse areas such as agrotourism, energy, and manufacturing. The state's continued investment in this fund has provided substantial benefits to so many capital infrastructure and business development projects that are improving the overall economic conditions for the City of Frostburg and our neighboring counties.

Over the last few years, the State has made a legislative and budgetary contribution to the western region through the creation of the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Program, otherwise known as the George Edwards' Fund. The state's investment into this fund has provided substantial benefits to so many capital infrastructure and business development projects that are improving the overall economic conditions for Frostburg, Allegany County, and to Western Maryland.

As written, SB8561/ HB1459, would alter the composition of the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board. The bill, as proposed, would also alter the purpose of the Senator George C. Edwards Fund to provide grant or loan funding to create jobs and significant economic development opportunities in the region. The bill would also extend the program through fiscal year 2031 and require the Governor to include an appropriation of at least \$10,000,000 in the annual budget bill to the Fund.

This program is a critical source to our region and offer vital assistance for new and innovative economic development that we want to attract in Frostburg and the surrounding areas. For these reasons, we respectfully urge this committee to give a FAVORABLE report to SB8561/ HB1459.

Thank you for your consideration and support to the City of Frostburg and to this region of the State.

Sincerely,



Todd J. Logsdon, *Mayor*