

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Board of Commissioners

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February 24, 2025

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone,

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioner of Garrett County, I wish to express our strong support for Senate Bill 861 - Economic Development - Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund – Alterations. This Bill represents a significant opportunity to enhance economic development in Western Maryland by making crucial alterations to the composition and function of the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and the Senator George C. Edwards Fund.

The Bill extends the fiscal years in which the Governor is required to include a minimum appropriation of \$10,000,000 in the Annual Budget Bill to the Senator George C. Edwards Fund through Fiscal Year 2031. This extension is vital for sustaining long-term economic growth and providing the necessary resources to create jobs and significant economic development opportunities in the region.

By supporting Senate Bill 861, we can ensure that the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and the Senator George C. Edwards Fund are better equipped to address the unique economic challenges faced by our region. This legislation will foster job creation, infrastructure development, and overall economic prosperity for Western Maryland.

This legislation is essential for the continued economic development and success of Western Maryland. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

On Behalf of the Board,



Paul C. Edwards
Chairman

cc: Senator Corderman
Senator McKay
Delegate Buckel
Delegate Hinebaugh
Delegate Wivell