LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SB 138 / HB 423

PUBLIC SAFETY – MARYLAND 9–1–1 BOARD AND MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – REGULATORY AUTHORITY

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

JANUARY 21, 2025

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo.) Emergency Managers Affiliate **SUPPORTS SB 138 - PUBLIC SAFETY – MARYLAND 9–1–1 BOARD AND MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – REGULATORY AUTHORITY.** This bill authorizes the 9-1-1 Board to establish regulations for implementing and enforcing certain duties and permits the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) to adopt regulations necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

The 9-1-1 system plays a vital role in public safety by connecting Maryland residents with emergency services. Ensuring that the 9-1-1 Board has the regulatory authority to carry out its responsibilities effectively will enhance its ability to adapt to evolving technologies, address operational challenges, and maintain high standards of service. By enabling the Board to establish clear and enforceable regulations, this bill provides a framework for improving coordination, accountability, and responsiveness across the state's emergency communications systems.

Moreover, granting MDEM the authority to adopt necessary regulations ensures a cohesive approach to emergency management. As disasters and emergencies grow more complex, this measure equips MDEM with the tools to address emerging threats and support local jurisdictions in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.

This bill represents an opportunity to strengthen Maryland's emergency response infrastructure and ensure the safety and well-being of its residents. Thus, the Emergency Managers Affiliate asks this Committee to give **SB 138** a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

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