



Queen Anne's County

County Commissioners:

James J. Moran, At Large
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
J. Patrick McLaughlin, District 2
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3
Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

The Liberty Building
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

e-mail: QACCommissioners&Administrator@qac.org

County Administrator: Todd R. Mohn, PE
Executive Assistant to County Commissioners: Stephanie Jarrell
County Attorney: Patrick Thompson, Esquire

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 130
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: HB 97 – Economic Development - County or Municipal Corporation Economic Development Authority - Powers and Use of Proceeds **SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Atterbeary,

On behalf of the Queen Anne's County Commissioners, we are writing to express our strong support for Maryland House Bill 97, which seeks to modernize the powers of Economic Development Authorities and grant local jurisdictions the ability to establish Revenue Authorities or Development/Redevelopment Authorities. As a rural community, Queen Anne's County stands to greatly benefit from the expanded tools provided by this bill, which will enable us to address both the challenges and opportunities unique to rural economic development.

House Bill 97 is vital for Queen Anne's County as it provides the flexibility to establish Redevelopment Authorities (RDAs) that can spearhead targeted development and revitalization efforts, particularly in underserved rural areas. As a rural jurisdiction with limited resources, it is critical that we have the ability to strategically plan and manage growth while maintaining the character and quality of life for our residents. The creation of RDAs will help us efficiently manage redevelopment projects that enhance infrastructure, provide housing options, and attract businesses—all crucial for supporting sustainable rural growth.

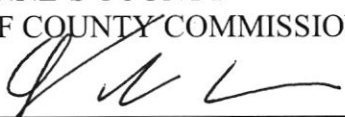
In addition to providing a mechanism for local governance, House Bill 97 empowers counties like ours to use tax increment financing (TIF) revenues to fund redevelopment projects, ensuring that necessary investments can be made without placing undue burden on local taxpayers. This tool will be especially important as we look to stimulate economic activity, revitalize key areas, and attract investment to our rural communities. It will help us navigate the limitations of available land while fostering job creation, housing development, and infrastructure improvements in a way that aligns with our long-term goals.

The expanded authority granted by this bill will allow Queen Anne's County to undertake redevelopment projects that may otherwise be financially challenging, creating opportunities for growth, enhancing quality of life, and addressing housing and infrastructure needs in a more holistic way. This

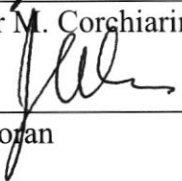
will be a key step in ensuring that rural communities are not left behind in the face of rapid urban development across the state, and that we have the resources to plan for a sustainable future.

We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 409, as it will provide the tools needed to foster economic growth, redevelopment, and community revitalization in rural areas like Queen Anne's County. Thank you for your attention to this important legislation, and for your continued commitment to the prosperity of Maryland's rural communities.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Christopher M. Corchiarino, President



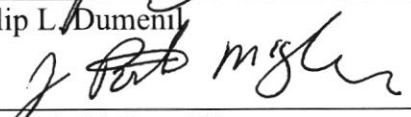
James J. Moran

Absent

Jack N. Wilson



Philip L. Dumenil



J. Patrick McLaughlin