



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 24, 2025

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Support with Amendments for House Bill 1459—Economic Development—Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund-Alterations**

Dear Delegate Atterbeary:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County (the “Board”) unanimously support the passage of HB 1459, with proposed amendments. As currently drafted, HB 1459 would alter the composition of the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board. Specifically, the law currently provides that a county commissioner from each member county would serve on the Investment Board, whereas HB 1459 purports to remove county commissioners from all three member counties, instead creating a much smaller Investment Board comprised of State delegates and a nonvoting Executive Director.

The Board believes that, in order for the Investment Board to properly address the economic needs of Western Maryland, participation and input are needed from the elected officials of those counties. As written, HB 1459 will remove the county-wide elected members from Garrett County, Alleghany County, and Washington County.

Accordingly, the Board supports the adoption of HB 1459, with the amendment that the bill not remove or otherwise interfere with the voting rights of the county commissioners on the Investment Board

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 

John F. Barr, President