



Letter of Support

House Bill 587 – Procurement – Department of Transportation and Maryland Transportation Authority Contracts – Board of Public Works Contract Authority
Budget & Taxation Committee
April 2, 2026

As a member of the Board of Public Works, I am proud to meet with my colleagues every other week to examine and consider state contracts, oversee the issuance of bonds, and protect the financial interests of Maryland. This transparent and public process, which is unique to our state, ensures that our major expenditures are necessary and appropriate, fiscally responsible, fair, and lawful.

What this bill does: House Bill 587 seeks to increase transparency in state procurement by requiring the Maryland Aviation Authority, Maryland Port Administration, and Maryland Transportation Authority to bring capital expenditures valued at or above \$500,000 before the Board of Public Works for review.

Why this bill is important: Since 1825, the Board of Public Works has been responsible for protecting the interests of Maryland by approving, authorizing, and superintending the execution of major state projects. Currently, this is reflected in one of our most important duties: reviewing and approving most state contracts valued at \$200,000 or above.

Several exemptions from Board approval exist, but the most significant exemption is the exclusion of capital expenditures for roads, bridges, and highways. According to Alan M. Wilner's 1984 book on the history of the BPW, the General Assembly codified this exemption in 1939, several decades before the creation of the Department of Transportation.

Every year, the state spends hundreds of millions of dollars on state road and bridge infrastructure without any public review of these contracts. HB587 remedies this oversight and allows review of major transportation contracts in the same manner as information technology or construction contracts. The amendments present a fair compromise that maintains oversight and review of the largest contracts while still maintaining the exemption for smaller contracts and modifications.

I urge a favorable report on HB587. At a time of declining public trust in government and increasing concerns about state spending, this bill folds millions of critical state dollars into the existing Board of Public Works review process.

Thank you. If you have any questions, please reach out to Matthew Dudzic, Director of State Affairs, at MDudzic@marylandtaxes.gov.

