

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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January 30, 2026

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 288 – HIGHWAY USER REVENUES

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County, I am writing to express its strong support for **SB 288**, which addresses the impending Highway User Revenue (HUR) funding cliff scheduled for Fiscal Year 2028. This legislation is critical to maintaining safe and reliable transportation infrastructure in Garrett County and across Maryland.

Under current law, counties and Baltimore City face a sudden reduction of nearly \$110 million in local road funding in a single year, compounding to approximately \$520 million in losses over five years. For Garrett County, and its municipalities, this equates to approximately \$740,000.00 in Fiscal Year 2028 and an estimated Three Million (\$3,000,000) over the next five years. Local governments maintain over 80% of Maryland's road miles, yet we lack independent authority to raise dedicated transportation revenues. Such a drastic cut would severely impact our ability to plan and execute essential projects like road resurfacing, bridge repairs, traffic safety improvements, and storm response. Residents expect safe roads, and they do not distinguish which level of government provides these services—they simply rely on them every day.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to **SUPPORT SB 288**. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

PAUL C. EDWARDS

Chairman