

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY



James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

HB 916
Transportation – Regional Transportation Authorities

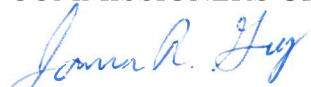
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation, Appropriations
POSITION: Oppose

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **OPPOSE HB 916 – Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities**. This legislation creates several regional transportation authorities, including a Southern Maryland Region Transportation Authority. The particular model for transportation planning proposed by this legislation raises concerns about governance, the relationship between any future regional transportation authorities and existing metropolitan planning organizations, and fiscal accountability.

Local governments own an overwhelming majority of Maryland's roadways, but local governments' representation in the proposed Southern Maryland Region authority's governing body is significantly diluted. Many of the proposed functions and responsibilities of the proposed regional transportation authorities appear duplicative of functions served by existing metropolitan planning organizations. While regional collaboration is essential to meeting cross-county transportation needs, abandoning existing collaborative tools that ensure counties have a fair place at the table is not conducive to improving local and regional outcomes.

We respectfully request the committee report **UNFAVORABLE** on HB 916. Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/tr
T:/Consent/2026/022

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator

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