



Senate Bill 300/House Bill 461

Economic Development – Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund - Establishment

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Senate Finance Committee and House Economic Matters Committee

Date: February 3, 2026

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

The Worcester County Commissioners support Senate Bill 300/House Bill 461 Economic Development- Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund – Establishment.

Rural communities face unique challenges that can limit their ability to compete for funding. A Rural Readiness Program that could provide local governments and nonprofits with grants to put them in a better position to seek major project funding could make all the difference for small towns struggling to make improvements. Here in rural Worcester County, the assistance a program like this could provide to towns like Snow Hill and Pocomoke would be invaluable, as it would place the jurisdictions in a better position to acquire the funding they need for major projects that would otherwise be beyond their means. A capacity-building program like this one is something that would benefit rural communities throughout the state.

We urge you to provide Senate Bill 300/House Bill 461 with a favorable report. Thank you.