



CAROLINE COUNTY
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CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT
LARRY C. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT
NORMAN FRANKLIN BARTZ, III., COMMISSIONER
109 Market Street, Room 123
Denton, Maryland 21629

February 12, 2026

Senator Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee Chair
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Beidle,

On behalf of the Caroline County Commissioners, we write to express our full support for Senate Bill 703. This legislation reflects a practical and necessary update to how dog licensing is managed in Caroline County, and we appreciate our local senators bringing this bill forward.

For years, Caroline County has been required under state law to follow a detailed set of procedures for issuing dog licenses, tags, and related enforcement. In reality, compliance with these requirements has been inconsistent at best. Many residents have not abided by the law, and enforcement has become burdensome and ineffective. We are currently required to manage a process that very few residents actually follow, and which delivers limited public benefit in return.

Senate Bill 703 gives the County the flexibility to manage dog licensing and animal control in a way that fits our rural population and limited resources. We are already tasked with implementing a wide range of state mandates on everything from public safety to infrastructure, and we do not need more regulation that is outdated, widely ignored, and difficult to enforce.

We are not seeking to eliminate oversight of animals in our county. We are simply asking for the authority to decide how to manage it locally and efficiently. This bill ensures that we can still license dogs if we choose, but without being tied to requirements that no longer make sense for our community.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 703.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President