

MARYLAND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SB 782 – Telecommunications Infrastructure – Protections

Position: Support

February 26, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, Members of the Committee:

The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce supports SB 782, which strengthens protections for telecommunications equipment and telecommunications infrastructure and deters theft and malicious damage that can cause service disruptions and economic harm.

Reliable telecommunications service is essential infrastructure for Prince George's County. It supports day-to-day commerce—credit card processing, logistics and dispatch, customer communications, and remote work—and it supports critical needs such as healthcare access and public safety communications. When telecommunications equipment is stolen or infrastructure is vandalized, the result can be service outages, lost productivity, delayed transactions, and real financial harm for employers and residents.

By discouraging theft and malicious damage, SB 782 supports service continuity and economic stability.

SB 782 would expand definitions of junk or scrap metal to include telecommunications equipment and requires certain junk dealers, scrap metal processors, and antique dealers purchasing telecommunications equipment to report information to county-designated law enforcement.

SB 782 advances an important public purpose by improving traceability of telecommunications equipment transactions and deterring malicious acts that can interrupt communications services. The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests your support of SB 782.

Sincerely,

*Alexander K. Austin*

Alexander Austin  
President & CEO,  
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce