

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells  
Chair, House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
145 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 354 – Maryland Port Administration – Acquisition of Land in Anne Arundel County – Notice of Public Hearing***

Dear Chair Wells and Committee Members:

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) takes no position on House Bill 354 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

The Port of Baltimore has a 320-year history of delivering economic prosperity through trade in the largest estuary in the United States. For generations, the MPA has been committed to supporting Maryland’s economic vitality while at the same time caring for and protecting our environment and improving the lives of our neighbors. Stakeholders play a vital role in shaping the Port and their input has driven efforts to enhance transparency and collaboration.

Under current law, the MPA must notify Anne Arundel County (County) in writing prior to acquiring any interest in land or improvements on land in the County. The County may hold a public hearing after receiving the MPA’s written request for acquisition. HB 354 would impose a requirement on the MPA to provide written notice of the County’s public hearing announcement to the Anne Arundel County Delegation two weeks prior to the County’s announcement being issued.

As the County is responsible for holding the meeting, which includes scheduling and ensuring that the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, including public notice, are met, the MPA may not be privy to the County’s announcement of a public hearing with sufficient time to provide the written notice required under the bill.

The MPA values transparency and collaboration and respects the County’s authority to set the public hearing process. The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the committee consider this information during its deliberation of House Bill 354.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Guthrie  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Port Administration  
443-255-8980

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090