

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB1413

Last year, Maryland faced a \$3.3 billion budget deficit. To close the gap, the state's lawmakers approved \$1.6 billion in new taxes and fees. Even as the governor's proposal eliminates the \$1.5 billion shortfall, Maryland will still face a \$2.3 billion shortfall in the next term, according to a report by the Department of Legislative Services Office of Policy Analysis. By 2029, the shortfall will be about \$3 billion, increasing to \$4.1 billion by 2031.

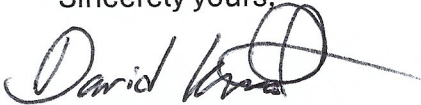
The budget of the District of Columbia is similarly in trouble.

Seriously studying a second retrocession is a smart thing to do. Both D.C. and Maryland should do this. Maryland can start the process now thanks to HB1413.

If D.C. and Maryland merge, Maryland state revenues should substantially rise. If D.C. and Maryland merge, D.C.'s government expenses should substantially decrease. Most of D.C.'s budget is for state functions, not city or county functions.

We recognize that creating a new county and political district in Maryland by adding all the non-monumental core portions of the District of Columbia through a second retrocession will require significant political will in D.C., Maryland, and in Congress. Nonetheless, it is clear to us that such a result is economically and politically empowering, non-partisan, and with precedent. Let's study it.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Krucoff". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end.

David Krucoff

March 12, 2026