



March 10, 2026

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and House Ways and Means Committee Members,

My name is Jennifer Jordan, owner of D & J Buses, Inc. in Bryans Road and a member of the CCSBCA. Our organization represents 24 small businesses in Charles County—the majority of which are women- and minority-owned—operating 315 buses that transport over 28,000 students daily. I am writing to express our strong support for HB1493.

We are reintroducing this "Public Notice" legislation to protect the interests of our companies, taxpayers, state and county funders, and the families who depend on safe student transportation. This "Notice of Displacement" bill is necessary due to the significant personal financial risks involved in our operations:

- Financial Investment: Each bus costs approximately \$160,000, funded through six-year personal loans guaranteed by our homes and personal assets.
- Procurement Cycles: We purchase buses on an annual rolling schedule. Because these vehicles are specified strictly for Charles County, they cannot be operated in neighboring jurisdictions if our contracts are terminated.
- Lack of Transparency: Over the past four years, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has increased its in-house fleet from 22 to 69 buses. Despite this growth, there has been no transparent communication regarding the timeline or methodology for shifting operations in house, leaving our businesses and over 400 employees in a state of uncertainty.

HB1493 does not limit the operational authority of CCPS. Instead, it ensures adequate notice to local government, parents, and contractors. This transparency allows for proper future planning, protects local jobs, and ensures continued safe transportation without sudden disruptions.

We remain committed to serving our students and believe this legislation is a reasonable step toward ensuring fairness and security for all parties. We respectfully request a favorable report on SB574 to protect our businesses, our employees, and the taxpayers of Charles County.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Jennifer Jordan
D & J Buses, Inc.