



February 24, 2026

House Bill 898
Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and
Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act

House Ways and Means Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 898 - Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act. This legislation will strengthen Maryland's ability to compete for private-sector investment, build infrastructure, and expand economic opportunity for our residents. These priorities are central to our economic future and addressing current fiscal constraints.

Expanding the private tax base through strategic economic development is essential to maintaining strong public services while minimizing the burden on residents, and the DECADE Act strengthens the State's economic development toolkit to help local jurisdictions like Anne Arundel County compete in a highly competitive regional and national environment.

Anne Arundel County is focused on connecting residents to meaningful career pathways and supporting the growth of businesses that create long-term economic opportunity. Tools that help attract, retain, and expand employers are essential to advancing workforce development and ensuring our residents can access good-paying jobs close to home.

The DECADE Act modernizes and streamlines the State's economic development programs so Maryland can move quickly and effectively when time-sensitive opportunities arise. Flexibility and coordination between the State and local jurisdictions are key to closing competitive projects that deliver lasting economic returns. It also extends the life of essential tax credit programs that directly support job creation, talent attraction, business expansion, and innovation-driven growth.

Finally, Anne Arundel County values its partnership with the Maryland Economic Development Corporation and supports leveraging MEDCO's financing and project management capabilities to advance catalytic projects. Aligning these tools with an entity that has the capacity to structure and deliver complex development projects will help accelerate implementation and maximize the return on public investment.

I appreciate the General Assembly's continued commitment to strengthening Maryland's economy, supporting workforce development, and creating economic opportunities for communities across our State. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 898.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart Pittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stuart" and last name "Pittman" clearly distinguishable.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive