



**HB 176**

**State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Department of General Services - Property Appraisal Aids - Geographic Images**

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means  
**POSITION:** Oppose

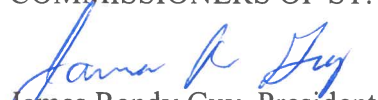
The Commissioners of St. Mary's County oppose **HB 176 - State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Department of General Services - Property Appraisal Aids - Geographic Images**. This bill would require the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to prepare, install, and maintain systems to capture oblique aerial photography of assessed properties and mandates Maryland's counties pay, in aggregate, \$1,000,000 to SDAT to underwrite this new program.

We oppose continuing to pass state costs to counties. In the case of SDAT, counties must bear 90% of the costs without any degree of influence or control over its management or operations.

Separately, we also express potential concern that pursuing aerial photography in St. Mary's County may not be viable in light of flight restrictions in the airspace near Patuxent River Naval Air Station and Webster Field. These installations are as vital to our local and state economies as they are to our national defense. It would also be unfair to expect St. Mary's County to pay for a program it would be unable to reap the full benefits of.

We urge you to **oppose HB 176**. Thank you for your consideration as well as your attention to this matter, and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

  
James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/tr  
T:/Consent/2026/009

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby

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Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
Captain Mark Zematis, Commanding Officer, NAS Patuxent River  
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David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator  
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