



St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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March 29, 2021

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 862 – **Letter of Support**
Section 27-11A of Article 19 – Public Laws of St. Mary's County
Section 113-6A of Article 19 – Public Laws of St. Mary's County

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The Metropolitan Commission (MetCom) supports the above referenced House Bill, scheduled for hearing at 1:00 p.m. on March 30, 2021. As a follow-up to our prior support letter submitted to the Appropriations Committee on February 17, 2021, HB 862 proposes to de-couple the Metropolitan Commission (MetCom) debt from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) debt. In lieu of the current combined total sum of 2.15 % of the assessable real property in the County, the Bill, as drafted and amended, suggests that the combined debt should be raised to 3.15% and proportionally distributed between both the CSMC and the Metropolitan Commission and that the outdated 25% provision in Section 113-6A also be updated accordingly.

We greatly appreciate the introduction of this Bill, which is a result of excellent coordination between the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, our Board, and the local Delegation. As the Delegation is aware, the combined indebtedness cap in the current codified legislation has been a concern for the MetCom since it was originally introduced into Section 27-11A. As such, we fully support the de-coupling concept as proposed under this Bill.

We believe that HB 862 will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County and will provide both the Metropolitan Commission and the CSMC with some additional flexibility into the foreseeable future. We appreciate the opportunity to provide support on the proposed legislation and if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,


Joseph "Russ" Russell, Chairman

cc: Senator John D. Bailey
Delegate Gerald W. Clark
Delegate Brian M. Crosby
Delegate Matt Morgan
Commissioners of St. Mary's County
St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
George A. Erichsen, Executive Director, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission
R. Christopher Beaver, General Counsel, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission