

**MARYLAND**  
*Association of*  
**COUNTIES**

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January 8, 2013

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Speaker Busch:

The Administration has proposed and the Capital Debt Affordability Committee (CDAC) and the Spending Affordability Committee (SAC) has recommended increasing the state's debt capacity by \$150 million to a maximum of \$1.075 billion in General Obligation bonds for Fiscal Year 2014. The SAC further recommended that the additional authorization be used exclusively for economically stimulative, job producing projects. Counties have many projects meeting this criteria and it is our hope that county priority projects will be considered for funding.

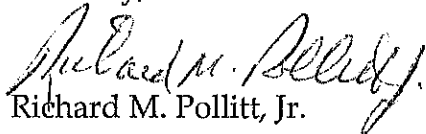
Over the past few years, counties have been cut more than any other recipient of state aid, with cuts totaling \$1.8 billion. To accommodate these reductions, counties have cut their capital budgets, some down to zero. In addition, reductions to Highway User Revenues (HUR) have severely affected the counties' ability to maintain local roadways.

As we have spoken with our counties, many have indicated that they have projects that could move forward immediately if funds were available. These include the building of new schools, roadways, wastewater treatment plants, and detention centers. Counties have also indicated they have funds available for a matching requirement should that be necessary.

While we understand that the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 budget is in its final stages, there will be discussions during the upcoming session regarding capital projects. As additional projects are considered for funding, we urge you to consider county projects for inclusion. Counties have many projects that will create jobs across Maryland. Working together, we can provide employment opportunities to our citizens and generate revenue for the State and counties.

Please contact me if we can provide additional information regarding county projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard M. Pollitt, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.

President

- CC: The Honorable Norman H. Conway, Chair, Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee,  
Appropriations Committee  
Joshua A. Watters, Staff, Appropriations Committee