



June 30, 2020

The Honorable Larry J. Hogan
Governor and Chair of the Maryland Board of Public Works
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Peter Franchot
Comptroller
80 Calvert Street, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Nancy K. Kopp
Treasurer
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Members of the Board of Public Works:

We, the undersigned leaders of the Maryland county community, have learned of a wave of budget adjustments proposed for consideration at the July 1 meeting of the Board of Public Works.

The proposed list of budget adjustments is understandably wide and far-reaching. In many cases, the proposed changes do not actually resolve the coronavirus-driven budgetary shortfall, but instead propose to shift those burdens onto another level of government. We write to ask that any such decisions be deferred, until there is more clarity about the depth of the fiscal plight we collectively face.

As we know, along with this devastating health crisis has come an unparalleled economic interruption. The wave of unemployment, disrupted business, and uncertainty will undoubtedly upend governmental revenue collections, and strain our safety net services. Counties, like the State, are already experiencing both sides of this.

As you prepare for the July 1 meeting, we still see major short-term uncertainties. The July income tax filings are typically a material indicator of non-wage income, among the more difficult elements to forecast, especially in difficult times. And the United States Congress continues to consider and debate various proposals to intercede in the economic disruption – including proposals to directly shield state and local governments from these immediate and abrupt revenue losses. For the State of Maryland to hastily approve budget cuts while these unknowns linger would be premature.

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A deferral of July 1 action would not necessarily remove counties from the budget reduction picture. However, it would afford us the time to collaborate and work together to find best solutions.

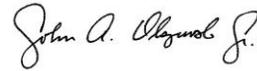
Regards,



Steuart Pittman
Anne Arundel County Executive



Bernard C. Jack Young
Mayor of Baltimore City



John Olszewski
Baltimore County Executive



Jan Gardner
Frederick County Executive



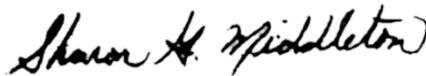
Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive



Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive



Angela Alsobrooks
Prince George's County Executive



Sharon Green Middleton
MACo President and
Baltimore City Council Vice President

cc: John T. Gontrum, Esquire