

NANCY DORMAN

1329 PARK AVENUE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217

March 1, 2023

Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Chairman, Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee,

I am an Enoch Pratt Free Library Board member, and I strongly support **SB 502 Enoch Pratt Free Library – Capital Project Funding** which would provide much-needed capital funding for our library branches. This funding would have a huge, positive, and enduring impact on our city.

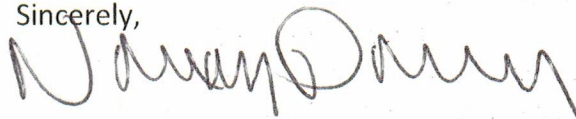
The branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library are vital community hubs, helping to stabilize neighborhoods and providing a world of opportunities for users. In Baltimore City, where access to the internet is limited or non-existent, we help bridge our city's digital divide. Through partnerships with Legal Aid, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and Morgan State University, our libraries provide customers access to social work and legal services. Throughout the city, we provide safe, accessible and free educational resources and information for everyone. Our meeting rooms offer non-profit groups space to meet on essential topics for the community.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library operates one of the oldest library systems in the United States, with nineteen locations that are more than 50 years old (six branches are over 100 years old). Deferred maintenance adversely affects vital library services. In the last 18 months, we lost approximately 2,200 public service hours due to failing HVAC systems. The library needs to address ADA and building code deficiencies. Library spaces need modernization to provide library services as required today. Flexible spaces are recommended to meet community's changing needs.

We fully support SB 502 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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