



January 29, 2014

Doug Gansler
P.O. Box 31102
Bethesda, MD 20824

Dear Mr. Gansler,

On January 14, 2014, local leaders of Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties came together in Annapolis to discuss the challenges facing school infrastructure in Maryland's three largest jurisdictions. Joined by members of our State delegations, county councils, boards of education, education activists, and community members, we committed to work together with our delegations to craft legislation providing additional State funding for school construction and modernization. In the coming years, enrollment in all three jurisdictions will continue to grow, and it is imperative that we make investments today to ensure that our children and teachers have the best learning and teaching environments possible in order for Maryland to continue to lead in education.

Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties combined comprise 44% of Maryland's student population and 46% of the students participating in the Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) Program. By 2021, projections predict that an additional 30,000 students will enroll in public schools in these jurisdictions alone, increasing the enrollment to 391,210 out of the State's 887,380 students. Growth in Montgomery and Baltimore Counties over the next seven years is predicted to be among the highest in the State and over the next twelve years, Montgomery County Schools will add 25,000 additional students to their rolls and Baltimore County over the next eight years will add 10,000 students to its rolls. At the same time, all of the Counties' schools face significant capital challenges that, if left unmet, will have a detrimental effect on the long term education of our children.

The age of many schools in Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties continues to pose a challenge. While the average age of schools statewide is 27 years, Prince George's and Baltimore Counties have the third and fifth oldest average age school stock, respectively. In Prince George's County, 49% of schools were built 30 to 40 years ago and 32% were built at least 50 years ago, translating to 81% of all schools in the County being at least 30 years old. In

Baltimore County, 83% of the schools are more than forty years old and 22% of the schools remain without air conditioning in spite of unprecedented investment over the last three and a half years that reduced that number from 52% in 2010.

Additional capital investments in education in our jurisdictions will provide a higher quality learning environment for our students and enable our teachers to meet the education needs of the 21st century. In addition to the long term education benefits, this investment will create jobs, foster economic development, and improve the quality of life across the counties.

We are asking you, as a current elected official and candidate for Governor, to support us in our effort to bring additional education funds to Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. These funds would be dedicated solely to capital improvements that will enable us to modernize schools and provide capacity for projected enrollment over the next decade. Our teachers deserve the best environment possible for teaching the next generation of Marylanders and our children require the facilities that will enable them to learn for the 21st century. Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties have invested heavily in recent years in order to make this possible and now we are asking the State to help us meet these demands. The top school system in the country merits nothing less.

Sincerely,



Kevin Kamenetz
Executive,
Baltimore County



Isiah Leggett,
Executive,
Montgomery County



Rushern Baker, III
Executive,
Prince George's County

Cc: Baltimore County Delegation
Montgomery County Delegation
Prince George's County Delegation