



April 1, 2024

Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Governor Moore:

On behalf of our constituents, we wish to thank you for the splendid leadership you have shown in dealing with the Francis Scott Key Bridge disaster. This is a testing time -- dealing with the shock of such an unexpected loss of vital infrastructure and tragic loss of life. We have been reassured by your wise words and fine figure, standing at podiums alongside such luminaries as U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Rear Admiral Shannon Gilreath of the U.S. Coast Guard.

We recognize that in these difficult times, you will be dealing with the challenging complexities of supply-chain disruptions, unprecedented traffic tie-ups in the Baltimore area, port unemployment, and environmental contamination. While at the same time recognizing the heroism of police officers who leaped into action to stop traffic on the Beltway on hearing the mayday call, while grieving with the families of those brave bridge maintenance workers who lost their lives. The road to recovery, we recognize, will be long and bumpy.

Not least of the challenges you face is budgetary. Despite President Biden's promises of federal aid to make our State whole after the FSK disaster, we have to face the possibility that politics will intervene to put a much less pro-Maryland person in the White House. We appreciate that even before the March 26 bridge disaster State finances were strained.

It behooves local governments, we submit, to play their part in helping their State in this predicament. To this end, we ask you to defer the grant of \$7.5 million for the Plamondon Downtown Hotel included in your budget proposal in January. It is now unlikely that the developer will be able to make use of the State funds in the coming year since he is not likely to be in a position to break ground until 2025. Moreover, he expects to be able to raise substantial capital funds on his own account. We remain very grateful for your readiness to support this important project.

Wishing you all the very best in the challenges ahead,

Jessica Fitzwater
Frederick County Executive

Michael O'Connor
Frederick Mayor

PS If you or your staff need an update on the progress of the Hotel project please contact Richard Griffin (rgriffin@cityoffrederickmd.gov). He has been City point man on this project since 2005.

