



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 626

Real Estate Development and Highway Rights-of-Way - Installation of Broadband Micro Conduits and Microducts

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Date: February 13, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 626. This bill seeks to establish commonsense "dig once" policies for installing certain infrastructure underneath our roads.

Counties support "dig once" policies to reduce repeated disruptions and costs through long-term planning. These policies ensure underground work, like utility installation, is completed efficiently to minimize road excavation. This approach preserves road quality and extends infrastructure lifespan.

Counties support HB 626 for promoting smarter infrastructure planning and long-term sustainability. Ensuring that a single broadband installation can serve multiple connections will streamline broadband expansion in underserved areas. This approach enhances accessibility while minimizing unnecessary disruptions to public infrastructure.

HB 626 is a good bill and smart infrastructure policy. For this reason, MACo urges the Committees to give HB 626 a **FAVORABLE** report.