



## House Appropriations Committee

March 22, 2010 Hearing

**Capital Budget:** Public Library Grant Program

**Project:** Leonardtown Library & Library System's Administrative Offices  
St. Mary's County Library

**FY 2011 Grant Award:** \$765,000 for design

The St. Mary's County Board of Library Trustees submits this testimony in support of the public library capital grant program. The DLDS Grant Evaluation Committee recommended that this project receive a \$765,000 grant for the design of a new LEED Certified Leonardtown Library & Administrative Offices for the county library system which is long overdue.

**Impact of State Grant:** We received a \$72,000 grant in FY09 which helped us begin this project. This FY11 grant will provide the matching funds the county needs to hire the architectural firm to design a 39,000 SF facility which is suitable to provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century library services. State support through this grant program is critical to keep the project moving forward.

**Justification:** This project was one of the recommendations of a countywide *Library Facilities Study* which was completed in 2007. The current facility is 19,000 SF on two floors in a 1954 National Guard Armory. The current population of the Leonardtown Library service area is 25,000 with an expected growth to 38,000 by 2025. Circulation at this Library continues to show significant increases: FY09, it increased by 11% for a total of 438,000 and YTD, it has increased by 15%. We need more space to shelve materials to meet this demand.

**County Funding:** Through this fiscal year, the county has committed \$1,780,000 to this project, with a projected investment of \$11.8 M for the construction.

**Timeline:** In December 2008, the BOCC purchased 180 acres of land ½ mile from the current facility. In May 2009, the BOCC approved the construction of a new 39,000 SF library on 5 acres of this property. This property will also be the site of a new elementary and middle school. The RFP for design of the new Leonardtown Library was released in Fall 2009. We are currently evaluating the 25 proposals and anticipate that we will have the architect selected by May 2010.

### Outcomes for this project

**Improved customer services:** ADA compliant; improved wiring for technology; more shelving space for materials to check out; larger meeting rooms; larger children's area separated from adult area; study and tutoring rooms; computer lab; drive up window; more self check-out terminals.

**Environmentally and fiscally responsible:** Modern and energy efficient lighting, plumbing, and HVAC system. We will pursue LEED certification.

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