BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Comments

Meeting Date

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis MD 21401

From: **Stuart Katzenberg** <skatzenberg@afscmemd.org>
Date: Mon, Aug 17, 2026 at 12:06 PM
Subject: Re: BPW 8/19 agenda
To: John Gontrum <john.gontrum@maryland.gov>

John,

AFSCME has comments, concerns and in some cases objections to the following BPW items. Please include the below in your official record.

Item 6-M and 7-M from MDOT on pages 81to 85

The State is contracting out the bargaining unit work of AFSCME members. Maintenance of our highways is the work of public employees and instead you are privatizing it to for profit corporations. This work is being funded by the transportation trust fund and should go to PINs in the AFSCME units to perform the work. We object to this strenuously and it should be removed from the agenda.

8-IT-OPT/MOD page 86

We would note that we have been concerned and raised questions previously about the cost, value, and redundancy of the duplicative HR systems in the state. This item lays out that separate and apart from SPMS, MDOT is spending millions of dollars on its own HR information systems. The state is wasting million by not consolidating HR systems (including HRIS). You are spending money on parallel systems for state employees. This is inefficient, redundant and costly. AFSCME believes your should merge the independent personnel systems to create efficiencies.

21-C-OPT page 113

This item is seemingly an open ended $140 million dollar contract to outsource the bargaining unit A work from AFSCME. This amorphous "job order contract" lets the vendor do an indefinite amount of work at state facilities across Maryland.

The JOC program continues to provide an efficient and effective procurement method for delivering repair, renovation, replacement, and minor construction projects at State-owned facilities throughout Maryland.

What the above describes is the core work of AFSCME bargaining unit A employees, labor and trades who perform preventative and corrective maintenance on state facilities. This is unacceptable and no contract like this should exists. The $140 million dollars should be directed to raises and PINs. We object to this item and it should be removed from the agenda.

42-GM Page 181

This is a $470 million statewide renewable energy contract. It requests a waiver on the bid. You are locking in close to 1/5 billion dollars for a private entity while waiving built in rules for accountability.   This seems unwise. Additionally, we have language in our MOU, Art. 20, Sec. 5, that explicitly calls for no displacement of our members in the transition away from fossil fuels as well as training for them to maintain new and emerging systems. No one has approached us about the ongoing transition away from fossil fuels and instead we are fast-tracking this enormous contract to a private entity. We ask for more information on this item.

25-S page 132

We have concerns and questions about this contract. If AFSCME is reading this right, KPMG will receive at least $118 million dollars if the state gets $440 million in revenue. That seems like a very large fee/percentage. We would like to understand more and meet with the administration on. We hope this item is deferred.

Pages 90, 98, and 104 have non-matching capital grants going to private children's facilities in Montgomery Co. and Baltimore Co. while RICA Baltimore capital project is now in the 2nd year of delay. You are seemingly fast-tracking resources to the private sector instead of your own facilities that you manage. State facilities can't raise other capital dollars while private facilities can get money for capital from a variety of sources. The money proposed should instead go to RICA Baltimore for necessary capital work.

A1-EX Page 195

This is a $15 million dollar contract for BCDSS security. This is again outsourcing bargaining unit work. Our members do security work at state facilities; you are outsourcing it. Furthermore, the record of the security contractors at BCDSS is terrible. Our members and the public are not safe in our own facilities. We have had many incidents where our members and the public are assaulted in these facilities. The security you hire does not protect our folks. We have repeatedly been rebuffed about information regarding the scope and scale of these contracts in LMCs. We object to this contract and ask it be removed from the agenda.

Stuart Katzenberg

Director of Collective Bargaining and Growth

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