SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1988.

May 27, 1988

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17, and Article III, Section 52(8) of the Maryland Constitution, I have today expressly disapproved and vetoed the following item in Senate Bill 271, the General Construction Loan of 1988:

- Item (K)(1)(c) appearing on page 15 of the enrolled bill, entitled:

"(c) Design and prepare detailed plans and specifications for the Plant Sciences building.....................800,000"

I will subsequently sign Senate Bill 271, which is approved except for this item.

My Administration has made a concerted effort to develop a five-year capital improvement program that is based on the State's Debt Affordability criteria for each of the five years of the program. Projects funded for design in one year can now reasonably expect construction funding to be appropriated when design work is complete. This has eliminated the practice of providing a level of design appropriations in one year that would result in a level of construction activity in the following years in excess of the State's Debt Affordability limits.

The five year capital improvement plan is a comprehensive program to address the capital needs of the State, and is prepared only after a careful review of all potential projects. Individual project decisions made outside of this process compromise the integrity of the overall program. By adding preliminary design funds to the General Construction Loan of 1988 for the Plant Sciences Building at the University of Maryland College Park campus, the General Assembly has provided for a relatively small portion of the project's estimated $33,500,000 cost. Given higher priorities of the University, it is unlikely that construction funding for this project would be available in the General Construction Loan before fiscal year 1993. It serves no purpose to provide design funds at this time for a project that