

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
House Speaker
Maryland State House, H-101
State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
Maryland State House, H-107
State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke
House Minority Leader
House Office Building, Room 212
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Bryan W. Simonaire
Senate Minority Leader
James Senate Office Building, Room 320
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for Veto Override of HB 1236

Dear Speaker Jones, President Ferguson, and Minority Leaders Kipke and Simonaire:

The undersigned elected officials, businesses, business organizations, labor unions, and advocates **urge your support to override the veto for HB 1236**, a bipartisan bill passed by the General Assembly that can be a key piece to our recovery in the near-term and for generations to come.

HB 1236 will enhance the economic competitiveness of the State of Maryland, deepen access to labor pools for employers and affordable housing options for residents, and reduce congestion on our clogged roadway network. This bill will begin to implement the MARC Cornerstone Plan through three initiatives of statewide importance, including: (1) a plan to pilot an extension of MARC trains beyond Union Station to L'Enfant Plaza, Crystal City and Alexandria; (2) a plan to close the gap between Perryville, Maryland and Newark, Delaware—opening job opportunities for residents in Cecil and Harford counties in Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania; and (3) a concept plan to connect the Penn Line and the Camden Line to enhance these lines' resiliency and improve operations and maintenance.

We appreciate Maryland's current fiscal challenges, but we strongly believe the pilots and studies in HB 1236 will generate returns on investments that far exceed the relatively small upfront investment and will position the region to emerge from the pandemic, and future economic recessions, even stronger. Therefore, we urge your favorable support of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive
Prince George's County

Ryan Dorsey
Councilmember
Baltimore City

Marc Elrich
County Executive
Montgomery County

Andrew Friedson
Councilmember
Montgomery County

Dannielle M. Glaros
Councilmember
Prince George's County

Evan Glass
Councilmember
Montgomery County

Tom Hucker
Councilmember
Montgomery County

Nick J. Mosby
Council President
Baltimore City

Steuart Pittman, Jr.
County Executive
Anne Arundel County

Hans Reimer
Councilmember
Montgomery County

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
Baltimore City

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor
City of College Park

2030 Group
Baltimore-DC Metro Building Trades Council
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen – District of Columbia (BLET-DC)
City of College Park
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore
Friends of White Flint
Greater Washington Partnership
JBG SMITH
Maryland Sierra Club
Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
National Landing Business Improvement District
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce
Rail Passengers Association
SMART-TD Maryland
Town of Riverdale Park

CC: The Honorable Jared Solomon
The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Gregory Slater, Maryland Secretary of Transportation