

March 20, 2018

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.

Governor

100 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

President

Maryland Senate

State House, H-107

Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch

Speaker

Maryland House of Delegates

State House, H-101

Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller, and Speaker Busch,

As members of Maryland's business, non-profit, and advocacy communities, the undersigned organizations work every day to advance quality of life and access to opportunity for all Marylanders. Throughout our state, a world class transit system is important to connecting employers to our talented workforce and providing access to essential services for hundreds of thousands of Marylanders daily. We commend the General Assembly for addressing this topic by advancing legislation that provides increased funding as well as reform measures for MTA and Metro this session.

Virginia's General Assembly recently passed a bill that provides \$154 million in new, dedicated, and bondable funding for Metro and includes reform and accountability measures to improve governance and operations. This funding represents Virginia's share of the regional funding to achieve no less than \$500 million in additional funding annually between Maryland, the District and Virginia that will recapitalize the system and make critical capital improvements. While we applaud the progress in Maryland to date, we urge the General Assembly and Governor Hogan to finish the work that has been started by fully funding Maryland's \$167 million proportional share for Metro and increasing capital and operating funding for MTA.

Metro is crucial to the economic well-being and sustainability of Maryland. Each weekday a quarter of a million Marylanders rely on Metro to get to work and school, access healthcare, see family members, or experience cultural and other amenities. If Metro's funding crisis is allowed to deepen, these Marylanders

will be immediately affected, and a severe burden of displaced Metro riders will be placed on our region's transportation infrastructure.

For Metro to be put on a positive and sustainable path, each jurisdiction must provide their full funding share and support crucial reforms to improve the effectiveness of Metro's Board of Directors and to contain costs. These reforms include a reduction in the size of the board, a requirement that board members meet certain standards relative to expertise, and protecting the Inspector General's independence and funding. The Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act provides Metro \$150 million in dedicated funding, but is not sufficient. A funding gap in Maryland will cause Virginia and the District to reduce their shares accordingly. This would mean leaving millions pledged to Metro by Virginia this year on the table, with no guarantee that that funding will be made available again.

A minimum \$500 million in new, dedicated funding—a number agreed on by Metro GM Paul Wiedefeld, former USDOT Secretary Ray LaHood, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments—is needed to avoid further deterioration of service, to replace all aging components, begin addressing leaking Red Line tunnels, and restore the system to frequent and reliable service. It also places the region in position to consider future service expansion, including to National Harbor.

While we are encouraged by the momentum building for the Metro/Transit Funding Act and the leadership shown by the General Assembly, Virginia's full funding pledge makes it necessary that Maryland increase the funding in the bill for Metro to \$167 million. A long-term solution has eluded our region for 40 years. Virginia's vote proves conclusively that such a solution is possible this year. We, the undersigned, look forward to working with the General Assembly and Governor Hogan to ensure that Maryland and our region do not miss this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jason Miller  
CEO  
Greater Washington  
Partnership

Kimberly Horn  
Chair  
Greater Washington  
Board of Trade

Anthony A. Williams  
CEO & Executive Director  
Federal City Council

Robert E. Buchanan  
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2030 Group

Stewart Schwartz  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Smarter Growth

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Prince George's Chamber  
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Ginanne M. Italiano  
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Greater Bethesda Chamber  
of Commerce

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin  
President & CEO  
Montgomery County  
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Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
Maryland Sierra Club

Jim Young  
Vice President, Corporate  
Facilities and Real Estate  
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Jane Redicker  
President & CEO  
Greater Silver Spring  
Chamber of Commerce

Elizabeth Cromwell  
President & CEO  
Frederick County Chamber  
of Commerce

Jacky Schultz  
President  
Suburban Hospital

Emily Scarr  
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1000 Friends of Maryland

Paulette Hammond  
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Maryland Conservation  
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Central Maryland Chamber

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Executive Director  
Friends of White Flint

Heather Iliff  
President & CEO  
Maryland Nonprofits

Terry Manspeaker  
Owner/Founder  
Show Your Science, LLC

cc: The Honorable Douglas J. J. Peters, Majority Leader, Maryland Senate  
The Honorable J.B. Jennings, Minority Leader, Maryland Senate  
The Honorable C. William Frick, Majority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates  
The Honorable Nicholas R. Kipke, Minority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates  
The Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
The Honorable Richard S. Madaleno, Jr., Vice - Chair, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton, Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable John C. Astle, Vice - Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair, House of Delegates Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Tawanna P. Gaines, Vice - Chair, House of Delegates Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair, House of Delegates Environment & Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Dana M. Stein, Vice - Chair, House of Delegates Environment & Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Senator, Maryland Senate  
The Honorable Marc Korman, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates  
The Honorable Brooke E. Lierman, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates  
The Honorable Erek L. Barron, Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates