



## THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-4436

**Deni L. Taveras**

Council Member, District 2

February 26, 2020

Hon. Guy Guzzone, District 13  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland Senate  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Esteemed Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 645, State Income and Property Tax Credit – Purple Line Construction Zone. I represent District 2 of Prince George's County Council, which includes the Purple Line stops of Riggs Road and New Hampshire Avenue.

There are approximately 500 businesses along the Purple Line Corridor in Prince George's County. Most of the businesses are small enterprises owned and operated by local residents. These businesses are overwhelmingly minority-owned and -serving, and are vital drivers of economic opportunity in some of the most low-income and least-educated areas of Prince George's County. These businesses are a key part of the community I represent, employing local residents, catering to their needs, and revitalizing commercial strips of Prince George's County.

The Purple Line is poised to change everything for these businesses. I am working hard to ensure that this change is for the better—that it brings increased investment to aging commercial properties, increased sales to small businesses, and more opportunities for those who are aspiring entrepreneurs. The first step in ensuring that we bring positive change to the Purple Line Corridor businesses is helping them survive the construction period. Most business owners I have spoken with report a 40% drop in sales since construction began. These business owners are in dire need of the financial assistance HB 540 would offer them. In Prince George's County, we have taken the leadership to launch the Purple Line Construction Corridor Business Assistance Program, but we need the state to match our efforts.

I understand that amendments are being considered for this bill. I am in support of converting the benefit into a grant and extending it to cover larger businesses that have fewer than 14 employees per site.

Thank you for your consideration and I again urge to you to support SB 645.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deni Taveras".

Hon. Deni Taveras  
Prince George's County Council, District 2