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The Honorable Chairman Guy Guzzone and
Members of the Senate Budget & Tax Committee

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RE: SUPPORT SB-516

As Legislative Director in Maryland for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's (SMART) we urge your committee to support SB-516, "*Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act.*"

This legislation would codify the intent of the General Assembly that transit-oriented development is a transportation purpose and require the departments to make all reasonable attempts to include transit-oriented development as part of the preferred plan for development in areas served by transit services.

It would establish a Transit-Oriented Development Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund that would allow for transit-oriented developments to be equitably and inclusively promoted throughout the state. In addition the fund would be used to provide financial assistance for design plans, for public infrastructure improvements, and for gap funding for transit-oriented developments

The legislation would have many positive effects. It would curtail sprawl by enticing the public to locate at or near transit-oriented developments. It would entice businesses to locate where the public and employees would have access to their businesses from transit-oriented developments. It would increase transit ridership thereby reducing pollution from automobiles and reduce the enormous congestion on the highways.

We urge a favorable report on SB-516.

Sincerely

Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division