



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

February 11, 2022

Senator Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Maryland Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB0710 / SB0516 – Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service  
(Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)**

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) is a business organization comprised of small business, corporations, non-profits, and governmental agencies all working together for the betterment of the Howard County business community. Our mission is to provide advocacy, connections, and access to timely information to advance the growth and success of the Howard County business community.

I write to you at this moment on behalf of our 650-plus member companies who employ thousands across Central Maryland. Undoubtedly, transportation and infrastructure investment are a major determinant of economic development. Moreover, public transportation is vital for workers that do not have personal transportation. Not to mention, housing that is close to employment centers lessens the impact on our streets and minimizes environmental hazards. For these reasons, many communities near MARC stations are encouraging the development of transit-oriented development (TOD).

With the adoption of [PlanHoward 2030](#) in 2013, the county leaders have encouraged TOD through rezoning and new design standards. The new TOD zone is established for land within 3,500 feet of a MARC station and applies to the Laurel Park, Savage, and Dorsey MARC station sites. The zoning allows the development of multi-use centers that combine office and high-density residential. Howard County has also established requirements to achieve design standards for TOD.

For reasons noted in proceeding paragraphs, the Howard County Chamber is pleased to support HB0710 / SB0516 and encourages a FAVORABLE vote, as continued investment in MARC rail service will enhance our region’s quality of life and spur economic investment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonardo McClarty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE  
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

cc: Senator Malcolm Augustine  
Senator Pam Beidle  
Howard Chamber Board of Directors  
Howard Chamber Legislative Affairs Committee