



February 16, 2022

Kim Coble  
Executive Director

2021 Board of  
Directors

Lynn Heller, Chair  
Mike Davis, Treasurer  
The Hon. Virginia  
Clagett  
Candace Dodson Reed  
Verna Harrison  
Melanie Hartwig-Davis  
The Hon. Steve Lafferty  
Patrick Miller  
Bonnie L. Norman  
Maris St. Cyr  
Katherine (Kitty)  
Thomas

**SUPPORT: SB516 -Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act**

Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committees

Maryland LCV supports SB516: Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act, and we thank Senator Augustine for his leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV works at the intersection of strong climate policy and environmental justice. This bill supports both of those interests.

In order to confront the climate crisis, Maryland must take aggressive action to reduce the emissions from the transportation sector, which remains the single largest contributor to our state's climate solution. Last year, the General Assembly passed, and overrode the veto of, the Transit Safety and Investment Act, which would provide sufficient funding to bring our state's fleet of buses, trains, light rails, and subways to a state of good repair. This year, you have the opportunity to take additional acts to address transportation pollution, including efforts to electrify our state fleet of cars and trucks, incentives to citizens to move away from traditional gas-powered automobiles, as well as an innovative plan to allow counties to electrify their school bus fleet through partnering with utility companies.

SB516 is an important component of this suite of legislation, aimed to expand the More Jobs For Marylanders program to incentivize the creation of new jobs in transit-oriented development sites, similar to the current focus on new jobs in designated opportunity zones.

By directing resources to strengthen the economic opportunities around our transit hubs, SB516 will help to encourage Marylanders to reduce their reliance on privately owned automobiles, reducing both traffic congestion and emissions. Importantly, it will also expand job opportunities for lower-income Marylanders who rely solely on public transit to get to work, school, medical appointments, and groceries.

Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on this important bill.