

T.McMillen Testimony - HB375 .pdf

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United States House
1987-1993

C. THOMAS MCMILLEN

February 26, 2024

Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 375, Helen Bentley Port of Baltimore Naming Bill

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you in support of Senate Bill 156 to rename and codify in statute the Port of Baltimore to be the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore.

Helen was elected to Congress in 1984 and I was elected 2 years later in 1986. It was an honor to serve with her and we often collaborated on issues affecting the Port of Baltimore. Our Congressional districts were adjacent to each surrounding the port—part of my district encompassed northern Anne Arundel County and her district in Baltimore County was across Baltimore harbor.

I vividly remember our delegation meetings when Helen was indefatigable and passionate in her support of the Port of Baltimore. She was tireless in promoting the port and we, as a delegation, were always willing to follow her.

Thanks to Helen, Maryland's deep channel is a major reason why the Port of Baltimore is well positioned to handle the largest ships in the world. She was tireless in her effort to pass legislation to dredge the Port of Baltimore to a depth of 50 feet making it passable for the world's largest oceangoing



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ships, and the first East Coast port to have that capacity. There is no better example of Helen's contribution to the Port of Baltimore and out state than when Governor Moore recently announced the Port of Baltimore in 2023 set a new record hauling \$80.8 billion of foreign cargo.

Helen was steadfast in her advocacy for the port and maritime interests. She was always working to enact legislation to strengthen the US maritime industry and make further investments in the Port of Baltimore.

Even after she left Congress, Helen continued to devote her energies to the Port of Baltimore

It is quite fitting for the Helen Bentley Port of Baltimore to be codified in statute, I strongly support the enactment of this legislation as a highly deserved recognition for Helen's 70 years of devotion to the Port of Baltimore and her success in making the Port of Baltimore one of the world's leading ports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Thomas McMillen".

C. Thomas McMillen
Member of Congress (Maryland 4th District from 1987-1993)

HB 375--Delegate Marc Korman--FAV.pdf

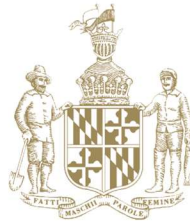
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MARC KORMAN
Legislative District 16
Montgomery County

Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Port of Baltimore-Renaming (HB 375)
Testimony of Delegate Marc Korman-Favorable

Thank you Madam Vice Chair, and my colleagues on the Environment and Transportation Committee. I come before you today to discuss HB 375. This bill will officially rename the Port of Baltimore after former Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley. While Governor Ehrlich did this by executive order in 2006, the change was never codified. This legislation will ensure the previous order becomes embedded into law.

Congresswoman Bentley has been described by many as a journalist turned politician whose passion for maritime issues was absolute. Congresswoman Bentley advocated for shipyards and underrepresented ports at a time when few others were doing so. Before representing the Baltimore suburbs in the House of Representatives, Bentley worked as a news reporter, TV host and served as the Chair of the Federal Maritime Commission. During her decade in Congress, she used her position on the influential Appropriations Committee to obtain critical funding for the Port of Baltimore. After her political career, Congresswoman Bentley co-authored the book "The Great Port of Baltimore: Its First 300 Years," examining the port's history and its many attributes.

HB 375 seeks to recognize and honor Congresswoman Bentley for dedicating her career to the Port of Baltimore, and for educating others on its significance. I urge a favorable report.

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February 28, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support – House Bill 375 – Port of Baltimore - Renaming

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Port Administration supports House Bill 375 as codifying the name “Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore” in statute is a deserved recognition. Helen Delich Bentley exemplified a life of public service and made remarkable contributions to the Port which led her to be widely regarded as the “Godmother of the Port.”

The Port of Baltimore is a critical international gateway that connects the region to global suppliers and markets, largely in part to Helen’s tireless support and advocacy of the commercial waterways in Maryland. Today, the Port plays an integral role as an economic generator and job creator, maintaining our nation’s supply chain and moving vital goods to industries and consumers.

Helen was an exceptional advocate for the maritime industry and those hardworking Marylanders making their living on the waterfront. In the 1950s, her interest and growing expertise in the Port of Baltimore led her to become the host and producer of WMAR-TV’s popular series “The Port That Built a City and State.” Helen used her television show and Baltimore Sun column to increase awareness of the Port and to advocate for increased investments in one of Maryland’s greatest economic engines and job creators. Helen recognized early on in her career the importance of our shipping channels and dedicated her life’s work to the Port up until her death in 2016.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Port Administration respectfully requests the committee grant House Bill 375 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jonathan T. Daniels
Executive Director
Maryland Port Administration
410-385-4401

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090