

3/01/2024

Richard Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0956 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public-Private Partnership (P3) Oversight and Accountability Act

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0956, Public-Private Partnership (P3) Oversight and Accountability Act

The prior governor negotiated mostly in secret a P3 project for modifications to the Capitol Beltway, I270, and the American Legion Bridge. It was negotiated with a foreign based company and was not found to be favorable in the treatment of affected communities and Maryland taxpayers.

This bill is an attempt to place controls on government in any P3 project contemplated by creation of a reporting structure with the power to review any plans and make recommendations. It creates a watchdog agency to safeguard the taxpayer's money and our environment and would provide public knowledge and input for each phase of a project being developed in phases.

This bill will fix many of the problems that the previous large P3 project encountered and will ensure proper oversight is conducted for every phase of a large-scale P# project. It will give the public increased confidence that what is being said and planned is being done according to the plan submitted and then monitored.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0956.