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.