

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16

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By: **Senator Lawlah**
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002
Assigned to: Finance

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Transportation - Woodrow Wilson Bridge - Proposed New Metrorail Line**

3 FOR the purpose of endorsing the Governor's plan to construct a Metrorail line from
4 the New Carrollton Station to the Bethesda Station, with stops in Riverdale,
5 College Park, the University of Maryland and the Takoma-Langley Crossroads;
6 and urging the Governor to initiate planning for the construction of a Metrorail
7 line from Branch Avenue to the City of Alexandria as part of the construction of
8 a new Woodrow Wilson Bridge connecting Maryland and Virginia.

9 WHEREAS, Traffic congestion in the Greater Washington region, and especially
10 in Prince George's County, is severe and has dramatically worsened in recent years;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of Transportation has indicated that
13 periods marked by severely congested conditions on the Capital Beltway, with
14 associated degradation to the region's air quality, will expand from the current 5
15 hours per day to over 14 hours per day by 2020; and

16 WHEREAS, The New Carrollton-Bethesda Metrorail line and the Wilson
17 Bridge Metrorail line from Branch Avenue to Alexandria have been studied together
18 as segments of the "Purple Line" through the State of Maryland's Beltway Transit
19 Study; and

20 WHEREAS, The Purple Line from New Carrollton to Bethesda would take
21 vehicles off Maryland roads by providing an attractive transit alternative for
22 thousands of suburban commuters using the Capital Beltway corridor, revitalize older
23 Prince George's County communities through Smart Growth, serve the 33,000
24 students and 11,000 employees at the University of Maryland, College Park and
25 provide convenient and reliable service for transit riders throughout the region; and

26 WHEREAS, The Purple Line from New Carrollton to Bethesda will provide
27 unique opportunities for connections with possible rail extensions in both the District
28 of Columbia and Northern Virginia; and

29 WHEREAS, The Purple Line from Branch Avenue to the City of Alexandria,
30 with stops at the National Harbor and the Andrews Air Force Base would take
31 vehicles off Maryland roads by providing an attractive transit alternative for

1 thousands of commuters in Southern Maryland and Northern Virginia, thereby
2 relieving congestion on the section of the Capital Beltway that includes the Woodrow
3 Wilson Bridge; and

4 WHEREAS, The Purple Line from Branch Avenue to the City of Alexandria will
5 serve as a catalyst for Smart Growth, economic development and affordable housing
6 opportunities that will provide a lasting benefit to Prince George's County and the
7 region, and should therefore be advanced now to take advantage of the opportunity to
8 incorporate it into the reconstruction of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge; and

9 WHEREAS, The primary goal of the Governor's Transit Initiative (GTI)
10 approved during the 2001 session of the General Assembly is to double transit
11 ridership in Maryland by 2020, and both segments of the Purple Line would
12 contribute greatly to the attainment of that goal; and

13 WHEREAS, These segments of the Purple Line are an aggressive step toward a
14 comprehensive regional strategy to solve congestion and associated air quality
15 concerns in the entire Metropolitan Washington region through rail expansion; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
18 General Assembly urges the Governor to direct the Secretary of the Maryland
19 Department of Transportation to continue its study of the Purple Line and to
20 construct and fund the Purple Line segments from New Carrollton to Bethesda, and
21 from Branch Avenue to Alexandria; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the Governor to work closely
23 with Mayor Williams of the District of Columbia and Governor Warner of Virginia,
24 and all appropriate federal, state, and local officials to coordinate planning and gain
25 regional support for these projects; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
27 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
28 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; the
29 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates; the Honorable
30 John D. Porcari, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; the Honorable
31 Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland; and each member of
32 the Maryland Congressional Delegation.