



MARYLAND TRANSIT CAUCUS

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Hon. Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Hon. Kumar Barve, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Environment and Transportations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2020

Re: HB 1367 – Western Maryland MARC Rail Extension Study

Dear Chair McIntosh and Chair Barve:

The purpose of this letter is to express the support of the Maryland Transit Caucus for HB 1367 - Western Maryland MARC Rail Extension Study. *The Transit Caucus chose to not only endorse this legislation but to select this bill as one of our legislative priorities for the 2020 session.* It is clear that residents in Western Maryland need another option for commuting to and from work

The Western Maryland MARC Rail Extension Study would address this unmet demand. We know that urban sprawl makes communities reliant on cars, degrades the environment, and contributes to public health inequities. Possible MARC expansion would make the region less automobile dependent, unlocking economic opportunity in an environmentally sustainable way.

This bill would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of expanding commuter rail service to Western Maryland via the MARC Train line and/or currently inactive rail lines.

The Transit Caucus recognizes that not all areas of the state are equitably served by public transit systems, and that Western Maryland is long overdue for more effective transit connectivity with the greater Washington region. The Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report for this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.