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Budget and Taxation Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill- 424 - Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 12th, 2020
1:00pm
Position: SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and distinguished members of the committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 424 - Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)**.

This bill will significantly benefit many of our constituents by investing in a crumbling transit infrastructure. As drafted, this legislation alters and extends provisions of the Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act, requiring increased operating and capital spending for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This provides an average annual increase of \$123 million for MTA capital needs over the next six years for a total of \$738 million. All that will help rehabilitate an aging system.

This legislation also provides funding for electronic enhancements, routine updates to software, positive train control, and needed upgrades that allows MTA to comply with The Clean Water Act requirements. This allows MTA to improve access to MARC and bus stations, bus shelter examinations, EV charging stations, and solar rooftops at bus depots.

Senate Bill 424 requires the Governor to submit the capital funds programmed, appropriated, and expended on each of the projects identified in the assessment of the prior fiscal year to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, The House Appropriations Committee, and the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

By funding the MTA, we ensure a safer and more reliable transportation system which this state desperately needs and our constituents demand. This legislation provides an opportunity to assist our constituents both professionally and personally. A safe and reliable public transportation system promotes a more environmentally-friendly state by keeping cars off the road and keeping Marylanders connected to opportunity.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 424. Thank you for your kind consideration.