

Penn Station MARC Riders Group

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
The Honorable Michael Jackson, Vice-Chair
Members of the Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Requesting a Favorable Report for HB368 (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

Dear Committee Members,

The Penn Station MARC Riders, an all-volunteer group of riders and supporters who advocate for faster and more reliable MARC service between Baltimore and D.C., urges a favorable report on HB 368, the Transit Safety and Investment Act, which sets a minimum capital funding level for the Maryland Transit Administration for FY2022-2027 and prohibits reductions to operating funding levels during the same time period.

The MTA transit system serves hundreds of thousands of Marylander workers and their employers. HB 368 is necessary to ensure that the MTA system can be brought into a state of good repair as recommended by MTA's July 2019 Capital Needs Inventory (CNI) report.

The MARC Penn Line is an important component of the MTA system by which thousands of Baltimoreans commute to work in Washington, D.C. each day. It is a crucial link. It delivers economic opportunity to the heart of Baltimore and a dedicated workforce to the heart of our nation's capital. This legislation will ensure that MARC safety and security systems, MARC switches, and MARC locomotives are kept in a state of good repair. The cost of doing nothing is service shutdowns and delays, unsafe conditions for transit workers and riders, and delaying by years the ability to improve the system.

We urge the Appropriations committee to take action to ensure Maryland's transit system is adequately funded by issuing a favorable report on HB 368.

Sincerely,

Colin Beckman
President
Penn Station MARC Riders Group
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