

HB299: Public-Private Partnerships Projects – Real Property Acquisition - Prohibition

Stephanie Land

Carderock Springs Citizens Association

Position: FAV

I am Stephanie Land and I live in the Carderock Springs community, which is adjacent to the I-495 Beltway and is in the National Register of Historic Places.* I am here today representing the Carderock Springs Citizens Association. Our community urges you to vote for HB-0299 and more broadly, to oppose the current Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) plans to expand I-495 and I-270.

We are greatly concerned about air pollution and the respiratory health of all the region's residents, especially those who are already vulnerable—individuals with health conditions, senior citizens, and children. In our neighborhood is an elementary school alongside the Beltway; highway air pollution threatens the lung development of school children stepping outside for recess. Highway noise also negatively affects quality of life and health. And a number of homes in our neighborhood are in jeopardy under current plans.

Communities can be protected while also addressing the region's traffic problems. Alternatives involve public transportation, preventing highway accidents, efficient clearing of automobile collisions, alternative work schedules, locations of businesses, and high-density housing near transit. Home-based work, self-driving vehicles, and airborne package delivery, may accomplish as much as major, disruptive road construction that itself will cause prolonged congestion.

We thank Delegates Love, Korman, Kelly, and many others for sponsoring legislation to protect communities and ensure that MDOT will be accountable for designing the best solution possible for

transportation and for the overall well-being of citizens. The Carderock Springs Citizens Association is grateful for this opportunity to urge your committee to support House Bill 0299.

*See <https://www.carderocksprings.net/carderock-history--historic-status>