



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HB 1236 Transit – Maryland Area Regional Commuter Train – Expansion of Service

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports transportation that is environmentally friendly and decreases the use of single occupancy vehicles. We believe in cooperation among governmental bodies and support HB 1236.

With the establishment of a major job creating corporation across the Potomac River in Virginia, Maryland should be looking creatively to solve congestion problems, promote economic development and increase regional cooperation. HB 1236 helps to outline a course of action that may be mutually beneficial to three jurisdictions: Maryland, D.C. and Virginia.

This bill is limited in scope in that it changes the established routes of two MARC trains in the morning and two in the evening for two years. Having a transit ride that potentially goes from Frederick or Baltimore traveling through Union Station and terminating in Virginia could have many implications for both employers and employees. LWVMD believes that regional problems need regional solutions, and this is one new creative approach and worthy of evaluation and consideration.

LWVMD promotes the use of mass transit and alternative travel modes to help abate the use of our natural resources and promote a healthier environment. It's incumbent on us to try new regional proposals that benefit the lives of Maryland residents and our environment. We urge a favorable report on HB 1236.