



**THE GREATER BETHESDA**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Smart Business, Bright Future

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**STATEMENT BY  
THE GREATER BETHESDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
REGARDING  
HB1424 - PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS - PROCESS AND OVERSIGHT  
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MARCH 5, 2020  
POSITION: UNFAVORABLE REPORT**

On behalf of our 550-member businesses and more than 45,000 employees in Montgomery County, this statement is in **Opposition to HB1424-Public Private Partnerships – Process and Oversight.**

This bill seeks to establish a Public-Private Oversight Review Board which will act as an unnecessary layer of bureaucratic oversight certain to translate into delay. A corollary requirement that EIS studies be completed before presolicitation carelessly adds about 2 years to the process. In all matter of thinking, this bill is an effort to delay a project that is sorely needed and supported by your constituents.

The business community recognizes that solutions to traffic congestion must be a parallel effort to fund and improve roads **and** transit. We are on board with that mantra, so don't let political albatrosses such as this bill dictate your votes. Creation of a potentially political P3 oversight Board such as the one proposed in HB 1424 could genuinely frighten away potential investors from the project.

The P-3 is the only way to responsibly fund large infrastructure projects such as the 270 widening and the American Legion Bridge improvement. You must resist efforts to undermine a funding process that is successful across the country. We ask that you please give HB1424 and unfavorable report and thank you for your consideration of these remarks.