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MINORITY WHIP

Finance Committee
Executive Nominations Committee



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Delores Kelley
Finance Committee
Senate Bill – 13- Chesapeake Bay Bridge - Reconstruction Advisory Group and Traffic Study

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 13 is an "Emergency Bill" that would establish into statute the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group, also known as BBRAG, and study traffic issues associated with the Bay Bridge and Route 50 between Interstate 97 and Route 404. Senate Bill 13 would also require the Department to study advanced technology and modern traffic management techniques and make recommendations.

BBRAG has existed since 2005, it started out as a group of concerned citizens that live on both sides of the Bay Bridge who collaborated with State Highway and the Department on traffic and construction issues. The Group has always met either monthly or quarterly as the BBRAG President deemed necessary. The collaboration has been necessary and needed because residents of Kent Island and the Broadneck Peninsula have always been held captive in their homes due to the Bay Bridge Traffic. The week day commuting and weekend beach traffic causes severe congestion that affects Route 50 throughout Queen Anne's and Anne Arundel Counties.

The membership of this group would be made up of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation or a Designee, The State Highway Administrator or Designee, two Members appointed by Anne Arundel County Council, two Members appointed by Queen Anne's County Commissioners, 3 Members appointed by the Governor who reside in Anne Arundel County and 3 Members appointed by the Governor who reside in Queen Anne's County.

BBRAG is expected to adopt bylaws and continue as it has done since 2005 using the existing resources within the Department and the State Highway Administration.

There are three Amendments in file, 1. The first clarifies that the study should be between Interstate 97 and Route 404, 2. Clarifies that the BBRAG should be under the Department and 3. Adds the Secretary of Transportation or Designee and the State Highway Administrator or Designee to the Membership.

Senate Bill 13 is supported by the Queen Anne's County Commissioners.

I request the committee's favorable consideration of Senate Bill 13.