



January 29, 2020

The Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee:

We write to ask you to support **SB229 Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement - Expansion**.

For decades, the State has been required to win the consent of Eastern Shore counties on any proposed toll facilities through their jurisdictions. Before construction, the law requires the State to receive the consent of a majority of the affected counties' governments through which the proposed toll highway would pass. **It is only fair to extend this privilege to all counties in the State, any one of which may find their communities threatened by a proposed toll road.**

We want our mutual constituents to support new toll facilities. We support this legislation to require MDOT to formally bring our county government to the table on projects impacting roadways within our county.

A significant portion of I-270 and I-495 users are Montgomery County residents who use these highways daily to commute and run errands. If toll lanes are constructed, our communities along these highways will bear the brunt of construction activities, and they may not benefit fully from the tolled lanes. That's why we believe it is only fair to give our county government a seat at the table.

Thank you for considering our request to support **SB442**.

Sincerely,

Tom Hucker
Vice President
Montgomery County Council

Sidney Katz
President
Montgomery County Council

Marc Elrich
County Executive
Montgomery County