

Janet Gallant Testifying for DontWiden270.org in Support of SB229
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DontWiden270.org is a boots-on-the-ground organization with 1,000 members. We are for fair, effective, multi-modal transportation, supported by evidence that it will actually work.

In opposing the Governor's massive P3 plan, we meet with elected officials, canvass, staff tables at MDOT workshops, engage civic associations, testify, and help generate hundreds, if not thousands, of calls and emails to legislative offices and MDOT.

And then the Governor and Peter Franchot vote 'yes' at the Board of Public Works meeting, and that's that.

The counties and your constituents need SB229 as a tool and a way to have a fighting chance. All the chips are on the Governor's and MDOT's side. We have no leverage, so they keep their data and financials hidden. They give 100 empty presentations and say they're reaching out. They OK a toll project that meets the Governor's requirements, but not the counties'.

While the opposition has had some impact, the transportation needs of Gaithersburg, Germantown, Clarksburg, and Frederick will still be ignored. The northern bottleneck will be worse. The high tolls will be out of reach for the great majority, ensuring the free lanes stay congested. The environment will be degraded, and statewide, taxpayers put at risk.

All because **two people decided for us** that it was OK to trade the well-being of cities, the State's fiscal health, and the environment – all of that – for this toll road.

The P3 project started with the Governor saying 'yes'. And all he ever had to do was get one more person to say 'yes.' If the legislature passes the county consent bill, many, many more people will have to say 'yes' before a toll road is built. SB229 will finally give all Marylanders and their county officials the leverage and the say we need.