



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-4436

Deni L. Taveras

Council Member, District 2

February 20, 2020

Hon. Anne R. Kaiser, District 14
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Kaiser and Esteemed Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 540, the State Income and Property Tax Credit – Purple Line Construction Zone bill. This bill will allow qualified businesses to receive tax credits for the losses incurred due to Purple Line construction. I represent District 2 of Prince George's County Council, which includes the Purple Line Corridor stops of Riggs Road and New Hampshire Avenue.

There are approximately 500 businesses along the Purple Line Corridor in Prince George's County. Most of the businesses are small enterprises owned and operated by local residents. These businesses are overwhelmingly minority-owned and serving, and are vital drivers of economic opportunity along some of the most low-income and least-educated areas of Prince George's County. These businesses are key parts of the community I represent, employing local residents, catering to their needs, and revitalizing commercial strips of Prince George's County.

The Purple Line is poised to change everything for these businesses. I am working hard to ensure that this change is for the better—that it brings increased investment to aging commercial properties, increased sales to small businesses, and more opportunities for those who are aspiring entrepreneurs. The first step in ensuring that we bring positive change to the Purple Line Corridor businesses is helping them survive the construction period. Most business owners I have spoken with report a 40% drop in sales since construction began. These business owners are in dire need of the financial assistance HB 540 would offer them.

In Prince George's County, we have taken the leadership to launch the Purple Line Construction Corridor Business Assistance Program, but we need the state to match our efforts

Thank you for your consideration and I again urge to you to issue HB 540 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Hon. Deni Taveras
Prince George's County Council, District 2