

TESTIMONY TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

HB0114 The Transit Safety and Investment Act Support

POSITION: Favorable

BY: Ruth Auerbach, District 13 Resident, Columbia, MD 21046

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Maryland needs reliable public transportation. I have read that MTA buses break down twice as much as buses in other major Northeast cities. My personal experience is that unreliable transportation results in more cars on the road. When my life partner started his first job in Woodlawn, his commute was a first bus from Columbia to Baltimore and a second bus to Woodlawn. The unreliability of the bus system pushed him to purchase a car sooner than he would have preferred. In recent years, I have been stuck on a MARC train due to repairs. I was going to Laurel after work to pick up my car from the repair shop and almost missed the closing time. This experience discourages me from using public transportation more frequently. For me, these are mild inconveniences, but for people who rely on public transit this is a serious problem. It's an equity problem that needs to be addressed. As a quality-of-life and climate issue, more people on transit means less clogged roads with less greenhouse gas emissions.

**I urge your support for HB0114.**