



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0081
SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT - FUNDING**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ellis

Committee: Appropriations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0081 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have well over 30,000 members across the state.

Our members believe in public transportation and we believe that making an investment in public transportation will bring jobs and will support residents. Maryland has very poor public transportation. We don't seem to invest in it like other states do, and as a result, it limits opportunities for Marylanders and makes Maryland a job desert.

There are many places in Maryland where the only option for getting to work is to own a car, or wait for our ailing bus service (which needs a severe infusion of funds) to possibly arrive. Southern Maryland is one of those areas.

We believe that we should make the investment now in order to realize the direct impact of providing construction jobs and the broader impact of connecting residents of Southern Maryland to jobs across the state.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.