

**Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation**  
**Testimony on SB 843 Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**Promises Act of 2021: I-495 and I-270 Public-Private**  
**Partnership Agreement Requirements**  
**Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane**  
**Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Hearing Date: February 24, 2021**

**The Environmental Justice Ministry of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church strongly supports SB 843, the Maryland Department of Transportation Promises Act of 2021, the 1-495 and I-270 Public Private Partnership Agreement Requirements.**

**A main Unitarian Universalist covenant is the respect for the interdependent web of all existence, meaning the protection of nature and the environment. This bill would specify that a federally-compliant final environmental impact statement will be available BEFORE MDOT asks the Board of Public Works to approve any contract, a promise made by Secretary Slater to Delegate Korman.**

**Additionally, other provisions include:**

- No funding will be used to subsidize the project**
- Data used to estimate congestion relief, set tolls and inform other matters will be shared with local government planners**

- 10% of toll revenue will be made available for transit priorities of Montgomery County and Prince Georges County
- Public hearings will be held over toll amounts
- Buses and other transit will be able to use the toll lanes for free
- Bicycle/pedestrian lanes will be added to the American Legion Bridge
- MDOT will study the feasibility of Monorail along I-270
- No homes will be purchased before construction contracts are approved
- The project concessionaire will be required to initiate a community benefits agreement

Thank you.

**Nanci Wilkinson**

**Co Chair**

**Environmental Justice Ministry**

**Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**