



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

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February 8, 2021

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Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 361 - Public-Private Partnerships – Process and Oversight

Dear Senator Pinsky:

On behalf of the College Park City Council and residents, I respectfully request your support for SB 361 which would establish a Public-Private Partnership Oversight Review Board.

Public-Private Partnerships have the potential to leverage and extend public resources in a way that provides valuable resources to Maryland residents. In College Park, we will benefit greatly from Maryland's largest public-private partnership – the Purple Line—but that experience has been challenging and expensive for all parties. If a P3 solicitation is not structured in a way that ensures accountability for the private partner and minimizes risk for the public entity, the resulting agreement could lead to a massive financial loss for taxpayers. This risk is especially great when the project has a total value over \$500,000,000.

SB 361 would help minimize the risk for the public side of massive transportation related P3 projects by setting up an oversight review board and allowing sufficient time for public review of a solicitation before it goes out for bids. It would also require that the private partner establish solid creditworthiness and ensure that the public partner obtains the revenue of a project if the private partner is no longer able to maintain or operate the facility. The City of College Park Council voted to support this bill to protect the investments of our public entities and taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

cc: 21st District Delegation