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Together Strengthening Our Community

February 12, 2021

Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: Senate Bill 361 – Public Private Partnership Oversight & Review Act

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 361, which will help ensure oversight and predictability for the financial health of the State of Maryland in future Public-Private Partnership (P3) agreements. This legislation adds additional prudence to a process that, if used improperly, could have significant negative impacts on our communities and state finances for decades to come.

I am a strong proponent of the benefits of Public Private Partnerships for their ability to further the goals of our local communities and deliver complex projects.

However, I have also seen first-hand that strong safeguards and an oversight review board are crucial to protecting the public investment in public private partnerships. Had Senate Bill 361 been in effect, or had the provisions outlined in it been implemented with the Purple Line Public Private Partnership, I feel confident this light rail project, which will eventually yield incredible community and economic benefits for neighbors across Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, would have avoided the delays and challenges of the past year and be much closer to completion.

In fact, in Prince George's County we have already begun implementing the sorts of safeguards and oversight SB361 calls for. In finalizing our public-school alternative construction financing P3, we put into place an oversight board and other protections for our public dollars. This P3 will deliver six new middle schools for residents of Prince George's County.

Thank you for your dedication to the residents of the State of Maryland. I urge your strong support of SB361 to ensure the best stewardship of our public dollars for public good.

Together Strengthening Our Community,

Dannielle M. Glaros