

TESTIMONY FOR SB0869

Statewide Transit Plan – Western Maryland MARC Rail Extension Study

Bill Sponsor: Senator Corderman

Committee: Finance

Person Submitting: Pamela Bell, MSN, RNC-MNN
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Position: FAVORABLE

I am a resident of the City of Frederick and I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0869.

My husband and I live two blocks away from the MARC station in Frederick. He was able to utilize the MARC to commute to work on a limited basis. I could have used the service to commute if the hours of operation had facilitated those working 12-hour shifts weekdays and weekends, such as healthcare workers.

Before the pandemic, my husband and I drove to Shady Grove and took the Metro into DC for concerts, plays, and museum visits because of limited MARC hours. While it would be nice to take the train into DC, I believe that expansion of MARC also has the potential to benefit tourism and the economy Western Maryland.

Anyone who has driven on I-270 during AM and PM commuter hours recognizes the need for efficient public transportation to ease the burden of horrible road traffic on personal health and safety, and on the environment. I am in support of the SB0869 that examines the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of expanding MARC service in Western Maryland.