



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0869  
STATEWIDE TRANSIT PLAN – WESTERN MARYLAND MARC RAIL EXTENSION  
STUDY**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Corderman

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0869 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 with well over 30,000 members.

Our members support public transportation across the state. We are very concerned about the state of public transportation in Maryland (the worst in the nation), the fact that there is no direct way to get from our major cities like Baltimore, Annapolis, Frederick, Hagerstown and Salisbury to any of the other cities, and the fact that people in our rural counties struggle for hours to get from one place to another. Maryland is not a large state, and yet we have prioritized roads with Lexus lanes (which don't support low wage workers and front-line workers) over public transportation.

This bill would require studying the extension of the MARC rail service to Western Maryland. This is long overdue and would extend economic benefits to that part of the state. The results of this study would be added to the Statewide Transit Plan. The fact that there was never a study done means that we really don't have a realistic statewide transit plan. That plan would have connected Western Maryland, Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore to all of our large metropolitan hubs. Maryland needs a real plan to solve the transit needs of all Marylanders, but any steps towards that plan are welcome.

We support this bill but would also support an extension of this bill to provide Maryland with the statewide plan it needs.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.