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**SB 514 – Transportation – Investment Program – MARC Rail Service
(Maryland Regional Transformation Act)
House Appropriations Committee
March 29, 2022**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 514 – Transportation – Investment Program – MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Transformation Act). My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 340,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

One of the most significant ways to fight climate change and to spur economic development with family-sustaining careers is through the expansion of public transportation. Enhancements to existing MARC lines and expansion of service through new lines is an idea whose time has come. Our public transportation infrastructure needs to be significantly upgraded if we are to move into a cleaner and more prosperous future.

SB 514 creates a concrete plan to advance the MARC Cornerstone plan and to establish investment programs to enhance the existing MARC lines as well as to plan for new regional service and extend the Brunswick Line. The transportation dollars already exist to complete these enhancements and planning for new service, but we need the MARC Cornerstone Plan – a 30-year plan that identifies capital improvements needed to maintain a state of good repair for the MARC system – to have an eye toward a future of growth and expansion. We will need more and better public transportation in the future, and the time to plan for that is now.

For these reasons we ask for a favorable report on SB 514.