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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 475 / HB580

Maryland Transit Administration Police – Collective Bargaining –
Supervisors and Sergeants

Good Afternoon Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

SB475 includes sergeants and supervisors within the Maryland Transportation Administration Police to the list of employees authorized to collectively bargain with the Maryland Transit Administration. The Senate bill was amended to specify the supervisors that would be included, passed the Senate 34 to 12. The House and Senate bills are not currently in the same posture.

Currently, MTA Police Supervisors and Sergeants have no viable avenue of addressing issues regarding their workplaces, wages, and benefits. MTA supervisors oversee MTA employees who are represented by ATU Local 1300. Local 1300 members receive regular cost of living upgrades, and in many cases have either matched or exceeded the wages paid to supervisors

Being unable to negotiate wages has led to severe wage compression, which leads to high turnover and low morale. New regulations on law enforcement officers are going to increase sergeants' supervisory tasks and responsibilities.

MTA supervisors and sergeants are vital to ensuring safe and sanitary public transportation and deserve respect for their work. They should have, like other MTA employees, the right to collectively bargain their wages, benefits, working conditions, and staffing.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 475 in its current posture as amended in the Senate.