



TESTIMONY FOR HB0632

Baltimore East–West Corridor – Transit Study – Requirements

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg

Committee: Appropriations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0632 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members were outraged at the cancellation of the Red Line. This was a project that could have put Baltimore on the path to become an economic powerhouse, but instead the city languishes with no real connection between jobs and workforce. This was a giant mistake for Maryland that should be rectified as soon as possible. The city is lacking basic transportation services which affects the whole of the state.

This bill will require the Department of Transportation to promptly take all the necessary steps to complete the planning, preliminary engineering and National Environmental Policy Act process to get a decision for the Red Line and the MARC Rail Expansion to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Additionally, the DOT must prepare a funding, financing and construction plan.

How long does Maryland intend to continue to lose jobs because we can't understand the basics of public transportation? Our members are in strong support of this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.