

**HB1324 - Transportation - Maryland Rail Authority - Establishment(Maryland Rail Investment Act of 2022)**

**Date: March 8th, 2022**

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Position: Favorable**

**Davonte Douglas, Maryland Policy Fellow - Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report from the committee on **HB1324 - Maryland Rail Investment Act**. Improving Maryland's rail transit system is critical for reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions and meeting our ultimate goal becoming net zero. An updated rail system would improve Maryland traffic and offer a more sustainable transportation option for Marylanders.

The CCAN Action Fund is the advocacy arm of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots organization dedicated exclusively to fighting for bold and just solutions to climate change in the Chesapeake region of Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. We believe that the state government has a crucial role to play in mitigating climate change and should lead by example in all efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly important for our transportation infrastructure and our ability to adapt to a world that will be phasing out fossil fuel use. HB1324 updates Maryland's transit rail system which reduces stress on Maryland's highway system while also reducing our carbon footprint.

The Maryland Rail Investment Act:

- Establishes a Maryland Rail Authority
- Improves Maryland's commuter rail, heavy rail, light rail and bus reliability with increased transit revenue
- Sustainably funds Maryland transit projects with revenue generated from tolls

We believe that this bill is a commonsense step in the path to meeting Maryland's emission reduction and energy efficiency goals while also ensuring that Maryland's communities are provided with accessible transit rail transportation options that reduce Maryland's carbon footprint. Thank you for your consideration of HB1324. For all the reasons stated above, we urge a favorable vote from the committee.