

February 17, 2022

Written Testimony in Favor of HB0778 – Transportation – Investment Program – MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act) (cross-filed SB0514)

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Susan McCutchen. I am writing in support of HB0778, sponsored by Delegates Solomon, Bartlett, Brooks, Carr, Chang, Charkoudian, Charles, W. Fisher, Fraser-Hidalgo, Hill, Hornberger, Kerr, Korman, Lehman, J. Lewis, Love, Luedtke, Rogers,,Shetty, Smith, Terrasa, Thiam, Watson, Williams, K. Young, and P. Young.

I thank these delegates for bringing forth this bill. I agree that “the State must advance the Maryland Transit Administration’s MARC Cornerstone Plan and other MARC improvements to unlock a truly regional rail system that reliably services more Maryland communities and connect Virginia and Delaware.”

I strongly support their efforts to secure funding for the support of MARC rail services. With adequate investment, MARC will be able to undertake the steps needed to improve and enhance their mass transit services so that our residents and travelers through the area will be able to travel on a reliable system comfortably, safely, and efficiently.

Unlike the SCMaglev Oligarch Train that is not a mass transit system and promises to be expensive to ride, MARC is affordable regional mass transit. It serves residents where they live and can more readily address their real and pressing transportation needs at a reasonable cost to help them improve their lives.

We residents understand our legislators are tasked with finding solutions to our transportation needs and have many options to weigh. Continued investment in transportation systems such as MARC and thereby allowing the determination of “strategic priorities, policies, programs, and initiatives” is a reasonable approach. We only ask that our taxpayer dollars be spent judiciously while planners think creatively for the future as is being done with the MARC Cornerstone Program and its transit vision.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony. I look forward to HB0778 moving out of committee and going forward.

Sincerely,

Susan R. McCutchen

Susan R. McCutchen
5404 Spring Road
Bladensburg, Maryland
Tel: 301-699-9035