



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony on HB1336

Hearing Date: March 10, 2022

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Briggs

Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Submitting: Ruth White for Howard County Climate Action

Position: Favorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Howard County Climate Action supports HB1336, The Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding Commission. As a local climate group we are aware that transportation is the major cause of greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. We are part of the Baltimore region and we are aware that to solve the climate crisis in Maryland we need to pivot from overdependence on individual vehicles to mass transit and other transportation solutions.

The Maryland Transit Authority is the only one in the U.S. that is part of a state department of transportation without a board of directors and where decision-making lies solely with a governor. The result has been chaotic: reliable public transportation that further disadvantages many users already negatively impacted by poverty and structural racism, discourages ridership growth.

Transportation alternatives in the Baltimore area have been historically bypassed and unfunded. We need the kind of information and findings the commission this law creates to produce data that will allow this legislature in future years to create a new Baltimore Regional Transportation Authority.. And that Authority must be invested with the power to improve and expand transit service. We need HB1336 to start to step forward, involving all in the community to a better future for all in the Baltimore region.

For these reasons we urge a FAVORABLE vote for HB1336.

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Ruth White and Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

www.HoCoClimateAction.org

HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com

