

Appropriations Committee of the House

Testimony on: HB0778: *Transportation Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transportation Act)*

Submitting: Catherine Plaisant

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: 2.17.2022, 3:00 PM

To the Honorable Chair and all members of the House Appropriations Committee:

I am writing in favor of HB0778.

I support improving the Maryland Area Regional Commuter rail service.

As a faculty at the University of Maryland when I take the close-by MARC train in College Park (or pick up visitors), an old diesel train arrives, the conductor opens one door and set up a stool for passengers to use! Service is very limited. This is slow, polluting, century old transportation.

The state has been making great strides to connect College Park and Baltimore – in particular the school of medicine, but the public transportation service is so poor than driving remains the only way to travel.

In addition, I would like to see increased MARC Express service between Union Station, BWI and Baltimore main station, to improve service between the cities at a price accessible to most Marylanders (and not only the wealthy like the MAGLEV project proposes to do, without even providing good connectivity with MARC lines).

Thank you for your favorable report on this important bill.

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