



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

In Support of

*SB 463---Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority—Funding Formulas-Alteration (WMATA
Dedicated Funding Amendment Act of 2022)*

February 16, 2022

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on SB 463—Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority—Funding Formulas-Alteration (WMATA Dedicated Funding Amendment Act of 2022).

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce supports measures that strengthen all facets of transportation infrastructure, including transit. The Metro system, in particular, is crucial to our region's economy. Development around existing transit, like Metro, attracts new businesses and residents, reduces reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and improves quality of life. For this reason, we strongly supported legislation that was introduced and passed in 2018 to establish dedicated funding for WMATA, and it is why we support Senate Bill 463. We also appreciate that this legislation is contingent upon similar action in the District of Columbia and Virginia. WMATA's system is a regional one and should be funded as such.

For these reasons, we would respectfully request a favorable vote on SB 463. And we thank Senator Feldman for being such a champion on these issues.