



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

February 11, 2022

Senator Delores Kelley
Chair, Maryland Senate Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB0778 / SB0514 – Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Senator Kelley:

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) is a business organization comprised of small business, corporations, non-profits, and governmental agencies all working together for the betterment of the Howard County business community. Our mission is to provide advocacy, connections, and access to timely information to advance the growth and success of the Howard County business community.

I write to you at this moment on behalf of our 650-plus member companies who employ thousands across Central Maryland. Undoubtedly, transportation and infrastructure investment are a major determinant of economic development and private investment. Moreover, public transportation is vital for workers that do not have their own private vehicles. In fact, Howard County is served by four MARC Camden Line stations and has proposed TOD projects in three station areas. As such, the continued investment in rail lines that support commuter rail is vital in the future growth of our local economies.

For reasons noted in proceeding paragraphs, the Howard County Chamber is pleased to support HB0778 / SB0514 and encourages a FAVORABLE vote as continued investment in MARC rail service will enhance our region’s quality of life and spur economic investment.

Respectfully,

Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

cc: Senator Pam Beidle
Howard Chamber Board of Directors
Howard Chamber Legislative Affairs Committee