



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Regional business leaders creating a better tomorrow...today.

Calvin G. Butler Jr., Chair
Exelon & Exelon Utilities

Donald C. Fry
President & CEO

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Dolores G. Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Opposition to SB 658 - Transportation - Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission

Dear Chairman Kelley:

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) writes to express our opposition to Senate Bill 658 – Transportation - Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission. As the Greater Baltimore region’s premier organization of business and civic leaders, we are a leading voice for the business community on issues relating to economic growth, job creation, workforce development, transportation, and quality of life. Our members’ success is closely linked to the efficient and convenient transportation benefits provided by BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.

We respectfully request that you reject any legislative proposals that may have the unintended consequence of threatening or thwarting the economic benefits provided by BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Enactment of Senate Bill 658 would add an additional layer of oversight to the existing process and may delay the completion of safety and capacity projects at the airport, impeding economic opportunity and employment within the State. In addition, the proposed legislation appears to be duplicative of federal and state laws and regulations currently in force, particularly with respect to the federal requirements contained in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA). BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport complies with the federal NEPA process to publicly identify and disclose potential environmental impacts. In doing so, all project reviews are coordinated with State and local agencies and officials and include multiple opportunities for public comment.

The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to environmental protection, proactive planning and reducing and mitigating aircraft noise. When community complaints significantly increased after Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) substantially changed BWI flight patterns, transportation officials submitted a series of revised procedures to the FAA, which is currently considering the changes. The FAA has exclusive jurisdiction of airspace and is the sole organization in the United States responsible for the development, review, and implementation of flight procedures.



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Recognizing that this subject area lies solely within the federal government realm of responsibility and authority, the Greater Baltimore Committee is opposed to creating a commission to conduct duplicative reviews.

We respectfully request the committee give an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 658.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Fry'.

Donald C. Fry

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee