



**Committee: Appropriations**

**Testimony on: SB514 - Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act**

**Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition**

**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 29, 2022**

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB514. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB514.

Vehicles are the biggest contributor to Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions and their infrastructure scars our communities with unsightly, multi-lane roadways that pollute the surrounding communities with noxious and unhealthy tailpipe exhaust, and the vehicles on those roadways kill increasingly more pedestrians in our car centric country. We are mired in this state of affairs in large part because we have neglected mass transit.

Maryland has a Cornerstone Plan that has set forth a strong vision for transformational change but it has failed to implement that plan because it has not dedicated the resources necessary to do so. This bill makes substantial steps forward in carrying out the plan by establishing investment programs to advance the MARC Cornerstone plan and regional rail service. Such steps are vital for Maryland to viably compete for \$66 billion in federal funds made available through the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

**What does this bill do?**

The **Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act** will:

1. Require MTA to establish individual investment programs in the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), starting in FY 2023 and to be updated at least every five fiscal years, for:
  - The Brunswick Line
  - The Camden Line
  - The Penn Line

- Regional rail service between Perryville and Newark, Delaware
  - Regional Run-through rail service to Alexandria, Virginia
  - Extending the Brunswick Line to better serve Western Maryland
2. Require MTA to advance specific rail priority projects in fiscal year 2023 to work with partners to:
- Develop a service and operations plan for MARC through-running to Alexandria, Virginia
  - Develop a service and operations plan for MARC, SEPTA, or Amtrak regional service between Perryville and Newark
  - Complete 30% of preliminary design for:
    - a new Elkton infill MARC Station (Penn Line)
    - a new Bayview infill MARC Station (Penn Line)
    - a third track between Rockville and Germantown (Brunswick Line)
    - Station Improvements (Brunswick)
  - Complete 15% of design for a fourth track on the Penn Line
  - Hire three full-time equivalent staff to support planning, capital programming, and leveraging federal rail funding opportunities
3. Require MTA to conduct a MARC Cornerstone Plan Implementation Study to assess the total expected cost to fully implement the MARC Cornerstone Plan in addition to the investment programs mentioned above, the associated workforce needs, and ways the rail investments and services could be funded, submitting the report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 1, 2022.

We urge the Committee to recommend a **FAVORABLE** report so that we can vastly improve Maryland’s mass transit infrastructure and capitalize on the funds available in the federal Infrastructure and Investment Act.

**MLC Climate Justice Wing:**

Assateague Coastal Trust  
 Maryland Legislative Coalition  
 MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights  
 Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
 WISE  
 Frack Free Frostburg  
 Mountain Maryland Movement  
 Clean Water Action  
 Howard County Indivisible

Howard County Sierra Club  
 Columbia Association Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee  
 HoCo Climate Action  
 CHEER  
 Climate XChange - Maryland  
 Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/  
 National Parks Conservation Association  
 350 Montgomery County  
 Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

The Climate Mobilization Montgomery  
County  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for  
Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment  
Committee  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
Environmental Justice Ministry  
Coalition For Smarter Growth  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign  
MoCo DCC  
Potomac Conservancy  
Casa de Maryland  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
Laurel Resist  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative  
Ministry of Maryland  
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs  
Wicomico NAACP  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social  
Responsibility  
Chispa MD  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Maryland Poor People's Campaign  
Labor Network for Sustainability  
The Nature Conservancy  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
350 Baltimore  
Maryland Environmental Health Network  
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis  
Talbot Rising  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Chesapeake Earth Holders

Climate Parents of Prince Georges  
Echotopia  
Maryland NAACP State Conference,  
Environmental Justice Committee