

MARC KORMAN
Legislative District 16
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Oversight Committee on Personnel

Chair, Transportation and the
Environment



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 350
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3649 · 301-858-3649
800-492-7122 Ext. 3649
Marc.Korman@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Board of Public Works Comment Act (HB 498)
Testimony of Delegate Marc Korman—FAV

Thank you Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the Appropriations Committee. I come before you to present the Board of Public Works Comment Act (HB 498). This legislation would set up a more formal process for the state Board of Public Works (BPW) to accept and consider public comments.

As you know, the BPW is a three-member panel consisting of the Governor, Treasurer and Comptroller which is responsible for approving all state contracts exceeding \$200,000, legal settlements, certain land transactions, and other items such as Public Private Partnerships. Given the BPW's broad subject matter it is important that Marylanders be able to weigh in on the consequential decisions the Board makes. Currently, there is no centralized comment system.

The Board of Public Works Comment Act does the following:

- Allows Marylanders to submit public comments electronically on BPW agenda items;
- Requires the public comments to be included in each meeting packet prepared for a board member;
- Requires the public comments to be posted on the BPW's website at least 24 hours prior to a meeting; and
- Allows the BPW to hire an additional staffer to carry out the requirements of the bill.

The legislation will allow Marylanders to have greater input in the decisions of the BPW and ensures that the board members have a streamlined way to receive feedback from their constituents directly on matters before the BPW. I am pleased that all three current BPW members have submitted a letter in support of the bill. I urge a favorable report.