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**SB 875 - Task Force to Study the Reconstitution of the Maryland Transportation Commission
Senate Finance Committee
March 15, 2023**

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 875 with amendments. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB 875 creates a task force that will study changes to the Maryland Transportation Commission. The proposed task force includes riders, business groups, legislators, and industry experts, but does not include any worker representatives. The composition of study commissions have long term effects on their recommendations. The decisions of this study group will impact thousands of transportation workers across Maryland.

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300, SMART Transportation Division, and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen can provide essential expertise and institutional knowledge. Simple recommendations or proposals that may seem innocent can have disastrous effects for the working conditions, pension obligations, or federal funding eligibility of transportation systems. Transit workers deserve a full voice and vote at the table, especially when it is their work that this commission is discussing.

Add the following language to Page 2, Line Four, moving all current language down:

"(5) Two transportation labor representatives appointed by the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO."

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 1072 with the amendments provided.