

**LARRY KASECAMP**  
Legislative Director

**TOM CAHILL**  
Assistant Director

**JOHNNY WALKER**  
Secretary



ANNAPOLIS OFFICE  
176 Conduit St., Suite 206  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2597

PH: 301-697-2695  
[utusldmd@gmail.com](mailto:utusldmd@gmail.com)

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Members of the Senate Budget & Tax Committee

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND  
Local 600  
LAWRENCE KASECAMP

BRUNSWICK  
Local 631  
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON  
Local 1470  
KENZELL CRAWFORD

BALTIMORE  
Local 610  
JOHNNY WALKER

Local 1949  
ERIC BILSON

**RE: SUPPORT SB617**

As Maryland State Legislative Director for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's (SMART), we urge your support for SB617 - *Maryland Transit Administration – Fare Price Requirements – Alterations*.

We are the largest rail labor union in North America. Our members in Maryland are employees of CSX, Norfolk Southern Railway, Amtrak, Bombardier (MARC Service) and the Canton Railroad and work as conductors, engineers, switchmen, trainmen, utility persons and yardmasters. Our members operate freight and passenger trains that travel throughout the State. SMART represents over 216,000 members throughout the country.


Keeping mass transit affordable and accessible to all Marylanders should be goal of the legislature. The benefits are numerous, such as making it easier for Marylanders to travel to work, school, and other destinations without having to worry about the high costs of owning and maintaining a personal vehicle. This also can improve access to job opportunities, education, and healthcare services.

The reduction in traffic congestion is another benefit to be noted. Reducing the number of cars on the road can lead to less traffic congestion and faster travel times for commuters who aren't able to use public transit. This reduction in traffic can also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution which can have a positive impact on public health and the environment.

To maintain these benefits, we believe that repealing certain requirements that the Maryland Transit Administration increase fares for certain transit services according to the Consumer Price Index is a good start to keeping mass transit affordable and accessible.

**We therefore urge the committee to give a favorable report to SB617!**

Sincerely,

  
Lawrence E. Kasecamp, Director  
Maryland State Legislative Board  
SMART Transportation Division