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**SB 19 - Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses
Senate Finance Committee
February 1, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 19 – Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

SB 19 focuses on the existing inequities in Maryland’s transportation system in order to address them honestly and openly. Major transportation projects like the Red Line were canceled without ever addressing the impact that it has on working people. SB 19 requires major service changes and future cancellations to projects on the consolidated transportation program to conduct cost-benefit and transit equity analyses before proceeding. We must strive to make transportation universally accessible to all Marylanders, regardless of their circumstances, and SB 19 will help us get there.

Unions support SB 19 and are pleased at the diversity of stakeholders included in the decision-making process. The people most affected by the legislation, and those who could offer real-world experience and expertise – our transportation workers - have a seat at the table. It is vital that both the advisory committee and the Commission on Transportation Equity receives “on the ground” input from those who have intimate knowledge of Maryland’s transportation system.

We urge a favorable report on SB 19.