

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MARYLAND SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 1 PM
SENATE BILL 412 – TRANSPORTATION MARYLAND RAIL AUTHORITY
ESTABLISHMENT (MARYLAND RAIL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2023)**

Presented by Claudia Barber, member of Transportation Committee of the Caucus of African American Leaders

Today, our state legislature seeks to revise and replace the definition of the Red Line, and the Transportation Committee of the Caucus of African American Leaders opposes this change on page 11 of Senate Bill 412, that is currently before you.

The language we propose in Title 9 Subtitle 1 Definitions (F) is as follows:

“RED LINE” MEANS A RAIL TRANSIT FACILITY USING LIGHT RAIL that was approved, funded, and awarded a Record of Decision by the USDOT in 2013.

No deviation from this language will work. If the existing language remains in Title 9, Subtitle 1, we ask that this Committee issue an unfavorable report on this legislation.

We ask this Committee to reconsider the fact that the original Red Line project awarded a Record of Decision by the US Department of Transportation in 2013 was fully vetted, and should not be disregarded. It is imperative that we use taxpayer funds wisely, and not on an unvetted project incorporating the MDOT MTA East West Corridor Study.

We further seek amendments to this Act to include a Light Rail Study from BWI Marshall Airport to Annapolis, which would allow thousands of visitors reaching our state by airport to be only a train ride away to the state’s Capitol and state legislature. It would further improve the economy to have such Light Rail infrastructure in place when the new Carr’s Beach is completed and when future Army Navy games are played in Annapolis.

Thank you, Senate Finance Committee members, and Mr. Chairman for your time.