



Delegate Ben Barnes  
and Members, Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 19, 2024

Dear Delegate Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. **GGWash supports House Bill 198, the Maryland Metro Funding Act of 2024**, which would enable the state to provide additional support to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA, or Metro).


In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly passed dedicated funding for Metro, one of the few transit systems nationwide that lacks a dedicated funding source. That legislation restricted increases to the operating subsidy cap to 3% each year. Metro currently faces a budget shortfall and may have to make significant service cuts in the coming year without additional support, but the 3% cap limits Maryland's ability to meet the moment. HB 198 would shift the baseline for operating funds to Fiscal Year 2026, allowing the state to provide the increased funding Metro needs now, while ensuring that future 3% raises would be calculated from a higher starting point.

Every day, people across Maryland rely on Metro to access jobs, education, medical care, entertainment and sporting events, and countless other activities. For them to lose reliable access to transportation would cause significant harm to the state's economy and residents' quality of life. We ask the Appropriations Committee to give this bill a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed  
Regional Policy Director  
Greater Greater Washington

The Washington, DC region is great  and it can be greater.