



**Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce**

*In Support of*

*HB 198---Transportation—WMATA Operating Assistance—Alteration (Maryland Metro Funding Act of 2024)*

*January 23, 2024*

*House Appropriations Committee*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on HB 198—Transportation—WMATA Operating Assistance—Alteration (Maryland Metro Funding Act of 2024).

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce supports measures that strengthen all facets of transportation infrastructure, including transit. The Metro system, in particular, is crucial to our region's economy. Development around existing transit, like Metro, attracts new businesses and residents, reduces reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and improves quality of life. This is why we strongly supported legislation that was introduced and passed in 2018 to establish dedicated funding for WMATA. It is imperative that this funding formula work as intended, which is the purpose of HB 198.

For these reasons, we would respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 198. And we thank Delegates Korman and for Lewis for their leadership on this important issue.