

January 23, 2024

Dear Members of the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

My name is Michael Larkin, and I am a resident of District 20 in Montgomery County. I am a consistent rider of Metro rail and bus, and I strongly urge the Budget and Taxation Committee to give SB 126, the Maryland Metro Funding Act of 2024, a favorable report.

My life as I know it would not be possible without Metro. I use it to access work, medical appointments, and recreational activities at public parks. My ability to participate in civic and economic life would be severely constrained without Metro because I do not own a car. In addition, Metro rail and bus is relied upon by many of my fellow community members to access important social services. I volunteer at Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring, MD, once or twice a month, and I know from the conversations I have while volunteering that Metro is used by the clients and volunteers. Moreover, Metro is very important for people needing transportation to polling stations and for election workers such as myself to arrive at volunteer shifts. Residents from all walks of life cannot afford the service cuts that Metro is facing.

Metro service cuts would run counter to all the environmental goals, pedestrian safety goals, and economic goals Maryland aspires to achieve. In short, Maryland would suffer greatly if Metro is not fully funded and done so from a higher baseline.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Larkin
Silver Spring, MD
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