

Senator Guy Guzzone  
and Members, Budget & Tax Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

January 23, 2024

Dear Senator Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget & Tax Committee:

My name is Samuel Williams, and I live in District 20. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 0126. This bill would provide Maryland with the ability to support the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA/Metro), which is facing unprecedented funding challenges due to pandemic-induced inflation. Funding WMATA is, in my opinion, the single most effective thing Maryland can do to support communities around the Washington, DC metro area. If we do not allow Maryland to increase funding for WMATA to the level required, then we are giving up on our transportation and environmental priorities. Unlike many projects and proposals under consideration, the Metro already exists. It already serves communities in Maryland, keeping cars off of the road and connecting housing to jobs. The cost increase that this bill would cause is a rounding error compared to the budgets for new transportation projects and other state-wide initiatives, and unlike new projects, which may get funded only based on theoretical impacts, the Metro already has a proven impact on Maryland. Therefore, I strongly urge you to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel Williams', written in a cursive style.

Samuel Williams