

SB0681_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

2/28/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0681 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

**Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects - Impact Assessments and Mitigation Plans
(Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024)**

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0681, Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects - Impact Assessments and Mitigation Plans (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024)

The Maryland Department of the Environment will, under this bill, be required to establish the processes they will utilize to generate the project impact assessments for any major highway expansion project.

The strength of this bill is the inclusion of a metropolitan planning organization with DOT to work together to perform impact assessments. Based on that assessment the bill will mandate the development of how they will be affected in any project of any type with a discernable environmental impact. The generation of the mitigation plan will follow and become an additional element for decision making on whether a project proceeds. It will create any constraints on the conduct of and implementation of major highway expansion projects.

This bill ensures that climate change and climate effects from these types of projects is added to the planning and implementation phases.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0681