



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

To: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 7, 2024

Re: **OPPOSE - HB1446 / SB1060 – Railroads – Safety Requirements (Maryland Railway Safety Act of 2024)**

TradePoint Atlantic (TPA), the owner, manager, and developer of Sparrows Point, the former home of Bethlehem Steel in Southeast Baltimore County respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to SB1060 / HB1446 (Maryland Railway Safety Act of 2024).

Since 2014 TPA has taken on the challenge to clean up and remediate the environmental impacts of a century of steel making and prepare the former Sparrows Point steel mill in Baltimore for re-development into what is today a thriving global center of excellence as a leading tri-modal transportation, distribution, manufacturing, and maritime logistics hub, with over 50 world class tenant companies that directly employ over 13,000 Marylanders.

TradePoint Atlantic, the owner and operator of TradePoint Rail, an on-site short-line railroad that provides rail logistics operations for customers and tenants of TradePoint Atlantic believes this bill will jeopardize the productivity of the Port of Baltimore and nullify the substantial federal, state, and private investment to expand the Howard Street Tunnel to allow double stacking of containerized cargo by rail. Baltimore's port historically has been growth constrained through the inability to maximize the shipment of containerized cargo by rail to mid-west markets, a restriction that limits capacity and the overall efficiency needed for the port's shippers and customers.

TPA is specifically concerned with the bill's provision that limits the length of trains. This limitation will restrict cargo flow and the efficiencies that were going to be gained with the Howard Street Tunnel expansion. Furthermore, TPA recently announced a strategic partnership with Terminal Investments Limited (TiL), a subsidiary of Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), the world's largest shipper to construct the new \$1 Billion Sparrows Point Container Terminal within the Port of Baltimore, a project that will significantly expand Baltimore's port capacity and create an additional 1,100 new maritime union jobs. SB1060/HB1446 undermines and jeopardizes this project, one of the largest private economic investments planned within the Baltimore region. We urge the committee's unfavorable report.

About TradePoint Atlantic

The 3,300-acre former steel mill and industrial site in Baltimore, Maryland, offers a gateway to markets around the United States and the world, featuring a unique and unmatched combination of access to deep-water berths, rail, and highways. Groundbreaking agreements signed with federal and state environmental regulators in 2014 to remediate the legacy from a century of steelmaking have enabled the redevelopment of the site into a global center for trade and commerce. With 50 world class companies on site employing over 13,000 Marylanders, jobs are created, communities prosper, and industry is set in motion.

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