

SB0156 - MPA - POB - Renaming_SUPP_FINAL_CO.pdf

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Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 156 – Port of Baltimore - Renaming

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Port Administration supports Senate Bill 156 as codifying the name “Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore” in statute is a deserved recognition. Helen Delich Bentley exemplified a life of public service and made remarkable contributions to the Port which led her to be widely regarded as the “Godmother of the Port.”

The Port of Baltimore is a critical international gateway that connects the region to global suppliers and markets, largely in part to Helen’s tireless support and advocacy of the commercial waterways in Maryland. Today, the Port plays an integral role as an economic generator and job creator, maintaining our nation’s supply chain and moving vital goods to industries and consumers.

Helen was an exceptional advocate for the maritime industry and those hardworking Marylanders making their living on the waterfront. In the 1950s, her interest and growing expertise in the Port of Baltimore led her to become the host and producer of WMAR-TV’s popular series “The Port That Built a City and State.” Helen used her television show and Baltimore Sun column to increase awareness of the Port and to advocate for increased investments in one of Maryland’s greatest economic engines and job creators. Helen recognized early on in her career the importance of our shipping channels and dedicated her life’s work to the Port up until her death in 2016.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Port Administration respectfully requests the committee grant Senate Bill 156 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jonathan T. Daniels
Executive Director
Maryland Port Administration
410-385-4401

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

LETTER TO HOUSE COMMITTEE.pdf

Uploaded by: johnny salling

Position: FWA

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Environment and Transportation Committee
Delegate Marc Korman
Delegate Regina T. Boyce
6 Bladen Street
House Office Building
Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am honored to bring before you a proposal seeking the codification of the name "Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore" in statute, a gesture that stands as a well-deserved recognition of a remarkable Maryland citizen. Helen Delich Bentley's journey began in Ruth, Nevada, in 1923, as the youngest of six children born to Serbian immigrant parents. Graduating with a journalism degree in 1944, she ventured to Maryland, where she swiftly made history as one of the first women to cover waterfront news for the Baltimore Sun, eventually becoming the Sun's maritime editor in 1949.

Bentley's expertise in the Port of Baltimore propelled her to host and produce the renowned WMAR-TV series "The Port That Built a City and State" from 1950 to 1965. Her newspaper column and television show became instrumental in raising awareness and advocating for increased public investments in Maryland's economic powerhouse. Recognizing her contributions, President Richard Nixon appointed Bentley as Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission in 1969, marking her as one of the first women to lead a federal regulatory agency.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1984, Bentley played a pivotal role in enacting legislation that resulted in a 50-foot channel for oceangoing ships, positioning Baltimore as the first East Coast port with such capabilities. Throughout her congressional tenure, she worked tirelessly to strengthen the U.S. maritime industry and foster harmony between labor and management, contributing to the efficiency and success of the Port of Baltimore.

Even after leaving public service and until her passing in 2016, Bentley remained dedicated to advancing the interests of the Port. Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. honored her legacy by naming the Port after her in 2006 through an Executive Order. Codifying the name in statute is a fitting and proper recognition of the "Godmother of the Port," ensuring her lifetime of dedicated service and remarkable contributions continue to inspire and resonate within Maryland's maritime history. We kindly request your favorable consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling