

---

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Beidle 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