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Committee: Appropriations

Testimony on: Bill Number HB0084, “Transportation and Climate Alignment Act”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 11, 2024

This bill would improve planning for major highway projects so that the impacts on greenhouse gases and traffic (vehicle miles traveled) – and alternative investments in mass transit and walkable and bikeable communities – are explicitly considered. The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gases in Maryland, so that consideration of its impacts at the planning stage is essential to meeting our climate goals. It would encourage solar development on MDOT property. As we reduce climate pollution, we also reduce health-harming pollution.

Transportation is the second biggest expense for most American families. This bill will give Marylanders attractive and efficient alternatives to driving, such as transit use, walking, and bicycling. These alternatives are less expensive and allow travelers to blend exercise in with their trips.

According to a 2023 National Association of Realtors study 79% said that being able to walk to shops, parks, and other destinations are important to them. 65% said that public transit is also important.

Traveling by public transit is much safer than driving. Transit produces more jobs than roadway building.

Mindless highway expansion leads to induced use and demand for more roadways puts governments in a never-ending loop.

Sincerely,



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