



TESTIMONY TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

HB 1463 Transportation – Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act of 2025)

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, LWVMD President

Date: February 25, 2025

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports HB 1463 and Maryland's reallocation of funds to the capital needs of transit. We believe that transit is important to the needs of Maryland's people, and in a statewide study and consensus process, adopted a position to support increased funding for mass transit.

LWVMD thinks that the use of transit should decrease the use of single occupancy vehicles, and this is an admirable goal. To entice people to transit it is essential that we have a transit system that functions in both reliability and frequency. We know that this might be costly in the short term, but yields long term benefits for health, our environment, and congestion.

Where does Maryland stand? Do we support with words only for transit, or do we go deeper into the allocation of funds that can make a difference in the lives of residents? LWVMD believes in alternative modes of transportation and getting people away from single occupancy vehicles. We support promoting mass transit and its good maintenance. We want to encourage improvements to our transit system to lower emissions, reduce energy consumption and protect our natural resources.

LWVMD urges a favorable report on HB 1463.