

HB 587 – UNFAVORABLE

Topic: Procurement – Board of Public Works Contract Authority

The McDonald Mandate: People Before Pavement

To the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is **Ms. McDonald**. I am a candidate for Delegate in District 45. I am here to testify as **UNFAVORABLE** on HB 587. This bill is a perfect example of the bureaucratic "Jive" I am running to stop in Baltimore City.

1. Stop Creating New Layers for Old Problems

HB 587 asks for more staff and more money just to "oversee" transportation contracts. We don't need a new bill to tell the highest-ranking officials in the state to do the job they were elected to do. We already have the **Board of Public Works**—the Governor, the Comptroller, and the Treasurer. They sit in a room every two weeks to approve spending. Why are we spending more taxpayer money to give them "new" authority they should already be using? Stop the rubber-stamping and start the real oversight with the people we already have in those seats.

2. Pavement Over People: Where is the Respect?

The fiscal note for HB 587 says the state needs **\$270,000** for new staff and oversight just to look at "roads and bridges." My question to this committee is simple: **Why don't the less fortunate and the disabled get that same level of respect?** You are willing to find the money and the "oversight" for a street project, but as we see in **SB 742 (The Protecting People with Disabilities Act)**, you are allowing the most vulnerable Marylanders to be procedurally disenrolled and stripped of their lifelines. You are stripping services from children and seniors while you find \$270,000 to watch a paving contract. It is a disgrace to prioritize asphalt over human lives. If you have the money to watch the "pavement," you have the money to protect the "people."

3. Stop the Fire Sale: Keep State Assets in the State

This bill focuses on buying and building, but it ignores the fact that the state is currently liquidating our future. In District 45, properties like **2100 Guilford Avenue** are being offered for "redevelopment" and sold to private interests. **My mandate is: Stop selling and start serving.** Instead of oversight for new road contracts, the Board of Public Works should be mandated to **STOP** the sale of state assets and convert them into permanent **State Resources**—grocery hubs and vocational training centers managed by the state, not sold for a one-time profit while the community faces an imminent threat of homelessness.

4. No More "Administrative Nonsense" (HB 607 & SB 886)

We see leadership at the **Department of General Services (DGS)** coming directly from the very agencies where services are being stripped. Yet, **HB 607** proposes hiking the salaries of these same state officials to **\$185,000**. This is the nonsense that District 45 is tired of. We don't need to spend more money on "new oversight layers" or higher salaries while our community is struggling. **Implement the laws we already have.** Those in charge need to answer for why they let services get stripped while they ask for a raise.

Conclusion

I urge an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 587. We should not be "refining" the rules for road contractors while our neighbors are losing their care, their dignity, and their land. Stop the jive and start driving for the people of District 45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. McDonald

Candidate for Delegate, District 45

By Authority of: Nichole McDonald for District 45, Lonetta Mason, Treasurer