

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB0059 – Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)

Budget and Taxation Committee

February 23, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of SB0059, Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Act).

Expanding the number of lanes on highways has not been shown to reduce traffic congestion. It just increases the number of cars on the highway. Maryland has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Climate Solutions Now goals. A major contributor to greenhouse gases is cars. We need to make sure that we are encouraging and facilitating other means of transportation, such as buses and bicycles. This act would require that major expenditures on highways were matched with expenditures on public transit and infrastructure to make bicycling and walking more practical. It would focus on areas with the most need. Thus it would help both with health and access to job locations, a win-win situation.

I respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on SB0059.

Thank you.