



**House Bill 101 -- *State Highway Projects - Removal, Relocation, and Adjustment of Utility Facilities - Notification, Work Plans, and Compliance***

**House Economic Matters Committee and House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 15, 2024**

**Oppose**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes House Bill 101 -- *State Highway Projects - Removal, Relocation, and Adjustment of Utility Facilities - Notification, Work Plans, and Compliance*.

House Bill 101 requires the State Highway Administration to provide notice to the owner or operator of a utility facility for the removal, relocation, or adjustment of the utility facility for a State highway project. The bill further prohibits the utility from recovering costs and damages through rates.

MCCC is concerned that HB 101 provides insufficient time for utilities like the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to carry out the removal, relocation, or adjustment to a utility for a State highway project. There are simply too many factors involved for a utility to properly and safely meet the timeline proposed in this bill. These difficulties may raise costs for WSSC and lead to disruptions in SHA projects, which is a concern when seeking to move road projects forward.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 101 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street | Suite 1800  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-738-0015 | [www.mcccmd.com](http://www.mcccmd.com)