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House Bill 1236 - Transit - Maryland Area Regional Commuter Train - Expansion of Service

Environment and Transportation Committee

March 5, 2020

SUPPORT

House Bill 1236 would direct Maryland's Department of Transportation to enter into good faith negotiations with Virginia and other relevant parties to launch a pilot project to run MARC trains beyond Union Station to L'Enfant, Crystal City, and Alexandria in the coming years ahead of the completion of the Long Bridge, when up to eight MARC trains are expected to provide this service.

Currently, Maryland's MARC trains and Virginia's VRE trains both stop at Union Station but do not cross state lines; though some riders can use their VRE ticket on Amtrak as well.

Economic Development does not know or recognize county or state jurisdictional lines. As such, it is imperative for the future of our regional economy that workers are given multiple options to travel to-and-from various jurisdictions.

The prospect of MARC service from Maryland to Virginia can help change Maryland's thinking on what's possible with transportation planning. This potential will give Maryland a firmer competitive footing with Virginia while also forming broader partnerships.

For the aforementioned reasons, **the Chamber supports House Bill 1236 and respectfully urges a favorable report.**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased 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 is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.