



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • www.mde.maryland.gov

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Members of the Environmental Matters Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support, House Bill 172: Economic Development – Baltimore Metropolitan Council and Advisory Board and Baltimore Region Transportation Board

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment supports House Bill 172. Since the formation of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board's (BRTB) in 1992, MDE has been a non-voting member of the Board. This non-voting status has limited the Department's ability to have input into transportation issues, particularly those that affect the State's air quality goals for the Baltimore Metropolitan region. HB 172 will give MDE, along with other state agencies board members, voting rights. By re-organizing the Board and allowing each BRTB member to have a vote on transportation planning and policymaking decisions the Board should be in a better position to make broader more informed policy decisions. MDE believes that the vote given to the Department by HB 172 will allow us to better reinforce our air quality goals for the Baltimore region.

Thank you for your consideration of this information as you review HB 172. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Fretwell

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs

