



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
Lieutenant Governor

February 19, 2014

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton  
Members of the Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Support, Senate Bill 547: *Economic Development – Baltimore Metropolitan Council and Advisory Board and Baltimore Region Transportation Board***

Dear Senator Middleton and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment supports Senate Bill 547. 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. SB 547 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 SB 547 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 SB 547. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or [jeffrey.fretwell@maryland.gov](mailto: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

