

The Honorable Sara Love
The Honorable Ariana B. Kelly
The Honorable Marc A. Korman
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 23, 2019

Re: HB-663 Eminent Domain Bill

Dear Delegates Love, Kelly and Korman,

I write on behalf of the Carderock Springs community, a national historic district that will be significantly impacted by the planned Beltway Expansion project, to express our strong support for HB-663.

The Carderock Springs and South Carderock neighborhoods are located directly adjacent to the Beltway, between the River Road and Clara Barton Parkway exits. In addition to 569 households (many of them in close proximity of the Beltway), there is also an elementary school with its playgrounds and sports fields literally just a few feet away from the Beltway. Under any scenario where the Beltway capacity is increased, already existing negative environmental and property impacts will increase, especially if additional capacity results in traffic lanes moving further towards (and beyond) the edge of the existing right of way.

On September 4, 2018 in a news conference in Annapolis as well as other public appearances and meetings, Governor Hogan has promised residents "the state has no plans to take homes using eminent domain as part of the widening of Interstate 270 and the Capital Beltway". Passing HB-663 will assure that Governor's Hogan's promise is followed. Our support for this legislation is rooted in past failures of the Maryland State Highway Administration to honor its commitments to mitigate noise and air pollution during previous changes to the Beltway. A barrier wall was promised to Carderock Springs and South Carderock residents in writing during its last Beltway expansion but was never delivered.

Throughout the I-495 & I-270 comment period, our and other community associations have raised our concerns to State Highway Administration (SHA) and do not see any indication that our feedback was considered or reflected in the seven alternatives recently selected by SHA for moving forward. We are very concerned that Governor's Hogan's and SHA's promises will not be implemented, again, especially if HB-663 doesn't pass.

Thank you for bringing such important bill to the General Assembly. We urge everyone to vote "Yes" when HB-663 comes up to vote.

Sincerely,



John Orrick
President

Carderock Springs Citizens Association

CC:

The Honorable Susan C. Lee
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401