

Delegate Stewart

The Honorable Vaughn Stewart
220 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senator Rosapepe

The Honorable James Rosapepe
101 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 23, 2019

Re: HB695/SB788 Requirement of an environmental impact statement before design selection or hiring
a toll developer

Dear Delegate Stewart and Senator Rosapepe:

I am writing 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 HB695/SB788.

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, there is also an

elementary school with its playgrounds and ball fields located virtually feet away from the Beltway. Our community consists of approximately 1,000 adults and 761 children; plus children from other communities come to our area to attend the Carderock Springs Elementary School. Like many others, we are greatly concerned about the air pollution from highways on children's lung development and the impact of highway noise on the general health, cardiovascular systems and quality of life of the residents of our community. We are experiencing these impacts today, and these will only get worse if the Beltway is expanded. Not only will there be more cars and trucks, but traffic will be even closer to sensitive receptors such as our children, Carderock Springs Elementary School, and our homes.

Our community has been trying to bring our concerns to State Highway Administration (SHA) representatives, especially about the harmful impact that air emissions from highways have on the hundreds of children that live in our community and go to Carderock Elementary school. In fact, some states have banned building schools within 500 feet of highways. Our concerns about the State Highway Administration are further confirmed by SHA's lack of collaborative response to an issue that our community is facing. Our elementary school, its athletic fields and many houses with small children are located less than 500 feet from the Beltway. In the summer of 2016, massive amounts of vegetation separating the school and our neighborhood from the Beltway were removed, taking away the only protection from Beltway air and noise pollution that we had. We approached SHA directly in April 2018 about a timeframe for this replanting, but SHA has not provided the timeframe as of today.

Given what is at stake, our community supports bill HB695/SB788 that would require the State to do an environmental impact statement before it can select a design or hire a toll developer, measure Green House Gas emissions, ensure compliance with Maryland's 40% GHG emission reduction goal, identify

other impacts and funding sources for mitigating them and measure environmental impacts for compliance during construction and after construction.

Thank you for bringing such important bill to the General Assembly. We urge everyone to vote "Yes" when HB695/SB788 comes up to vote.

Sincerely,



John Orrick

President

Carderock Springs Citizens Association

CC:

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

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