

February 23, 2019

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

Re: SB442 Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges-County Government Consent Requirement Expansion

Dear Senator Lee,

Carderock Springs Citizens Association, Persimmon Tree Homeowners Association, and Evergreen subdivision strongly support SB442. Our Associations have spent countless hours working to protect our neighborhoods from the significant air and noise pollution caused by the I-495 Beltway traffic. Our neighborhoods are located directly adjacent to the Beltway, between the River Road and Clara Barton Parkway exits. We are greatly concerned about air pollution from increased Beltway traffic on children's lung development and the impact of highway noise on the general health and quality of life of the residents of our communities. We are experiencing these impacts today, and things will only get worse if the Beltway is expanded. MDOT is considering Beltway expansion alternatives that pose many of these risks, as well as risks to the environment, our homes and schools. Given what is at stake, all three communities stand strongly behind bill SB442, which will allow all counties (not only those on the Eastern Shore) to oversee planning of any toll lane projects.

Our previous meetings with Montgomery County representatives confirm that the County has a deep knowledge on how to effectively decrease traffic congestion and increase trip reliability while minimizing the negative environmental, health, and safety, impacts in our communities. The County is able to identify more comprehensive approaches that focus on reducing congestion of arterial roads as well.

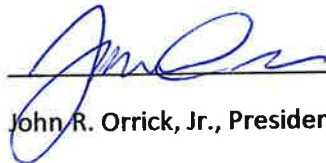
Three of our associations and the Evergreen subdivision have raised our concerns to State Highway Administration (SHA) throughout the I-495 & I-270 comment period and did not see any indication that our feedback was considered or reflected in the seven alternatives recently selected by SHA for moving forward.

Our support for this legislation is also rooted in past failures of the SHA to honor its commitments to mitigate noise and air pollution during the last changes to the Beltway. A barrier wall was promised to one of our communities but never delivered.

We strongly believe that counties have much more detailed information on local transportation conditions, and therefore should have a seat at the table for decisions of such great magnitude, such as a multi-billion-dollar beltway expansion.

Thank you for bringing such important bill to the General Assembly. We urge everyone to vote "Yes" when SB442 comes up to vote.

Sincerely



John R. Orrick, Jr., President, Carderock Springs Citizens Association, P.O. Box 237, Cabin John, MD



David Heltemes, President, Persimmon Tree Homeowners Association, 8608 Carlynn Dr, Bethesda, MD



Charlotte Troup Leighton, Evergreen subdivision, 7900-8041 Cypress Grove Lane Cabin John, MD

CC:

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The Honorable Marc A. Korman
The Honorable Sara Love
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