

SENATOR NANCY J. KING
SENATE DELEGATION CHAIR

SENATOR ROGER MANNO
SENATE DELEGATION VICE CHAIR

301-858-3686 · 410-841-3686
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686



DELEGATE SHANE ROBINSON
HOUSE DELEGATION CHAIR

DELEGATE KIRILL REZNIK
HOUSE DELEGATION VICE CHAIR

301-858-3010 · 410-841-3010
800-492-7122 Ext. 3010

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION

Governor Larry Hogan
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 22, 2016

Dear Governor Hogan,

As you may know, construction on the Watkins Mill Road Interchange (WMRI), a critical economic development priority for Montgomery County, was expected to begin next year. In November, a State Highway Administration memo recommended several changes to the project, including "an interchange with only the off ramps." This development so late in the planning process may significantly jeopardize the project and decrease the potential for much needed jobs and economic growth in the upcounty region of Montgomery County.

Prior to the recent State Highway Administration revisions, the first phase Watkins Mill Road Interchange promised to bring over 250,000 square feet of mixed use real estate, 930,000 square feet of office space, and nearly 400 hotel rooms. The second phase of development commences at beginning of the construction of WMRI, and would build on this progress. There are several approved projects that are contingent on a full diamond interchange to bring critical traffic relief to the area, including:

- A local FedEx distribution center bringing 300 new jobs to the region;
- Expansion of Lockheed Martin offices and employment;
- The Humane Society of the United States moving their national headquarters to Gaithersburg.

These are only a few examples of the critical benefits a full interchange provides to Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, and the surrounding region. In anticipation of this project, the area adjacent to the Watkins Mill Interchange has attracted significant employers who made investment decisions that presumed construction of a full interchange based upon public commitments by the State of Maryland and a \$4.9 million investment from Montgomery County. Because of the announced highway improvements, properties on the east and west sides of I-270 at this location have become hub for biotechnology companies and professional services.

Finally, the Maryland Department of Commerce has a commitment letter with a biotechnology prospect for a location that would also be served by the new, full interchange. Capital investment for that project is estimated as high as \$150 million. Without a full interchange at Watkins Mill, Maryland will be squandering hundreds of jobs and untold revenue from increased economic development in the upcounty area.

We are deeply concerned that the failure to honor the commitments made by the State to Montgomery County would compromise the WRMI project. On behalf of our constituents and the investments already made by Montgomery County and numerous businesses, we urge you to honor the original plans for the Watkins Mill Road Interchange.

Sincerely,

CC'ed:

Hon. Speaker Michael E. Busch

Hon. Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

Secretary Pete Rahn, SHA

Mr. Gregory I. Slater, Director Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, SHA

X



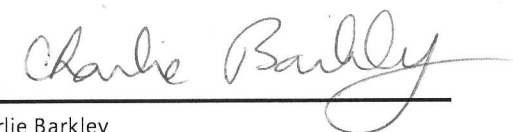
Del. Shane Robinson
Delegation Chair

X



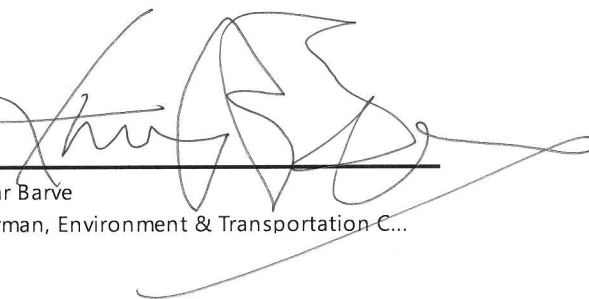
Sen. Nancy King
Delegation Chair

X



Charlie Barkley
Delegate

X



Kumar Barve
Chairman, Environment & Transportation C...

X



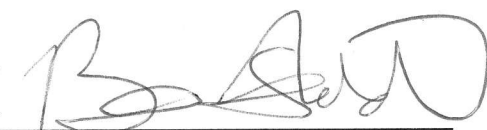
Al Carr
Delegate

X



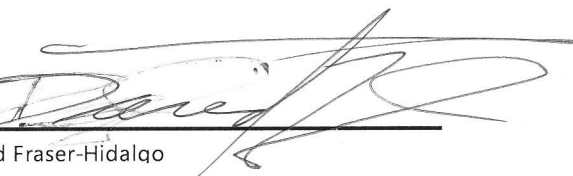
Bonnie Cullison
Delegate

X



Brian Feldman
Senator

X



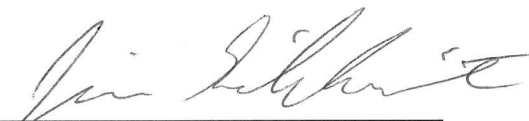
David Fraser-Hidalgo
Delegate

X



Bill Frick
Delegate

X



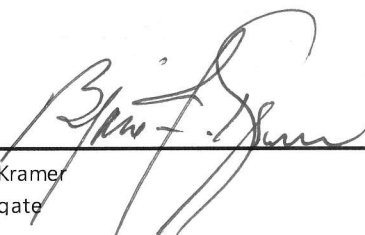
Jim Gilchrist
Delegate

X



Marc Korman
Delegate

X



Ben Kramer
Delegate

X

Susan Lee
Senator

X

Eric Luedtke
Delegate

X

Richard Madaleno
Senator

X

Aruna Miller
Delegate

X

David Moon
Delegate

X

Marice Morales
Delegate

X

Andrew Platt
Delegate

X

Kirill Reznik
Delegate

X

Ana Sol-Gutierrez
Delegate


X

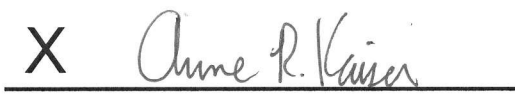
Jeff Waldstreicher
Delegate


X


Craig Zucker
Delegate

X 
Kathleen Dumais
Delegate

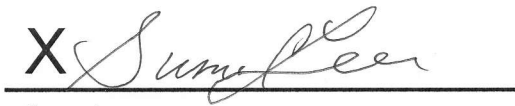
X 
Sheila Hixson
Delegate

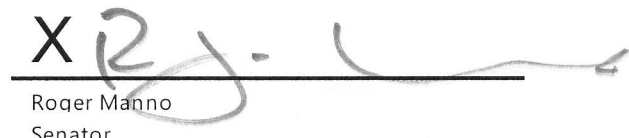
X 
Anne Kaiser
Delegate

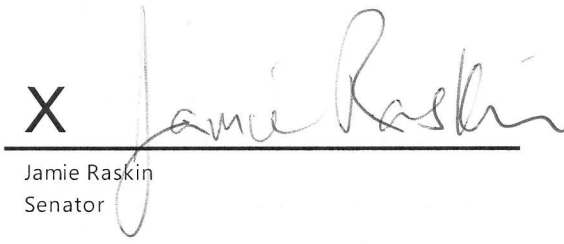
X 
Arianna Kelly
Delegate

X 
Will Smith
Delegate

X 
Cheryl Kagan
Senator

X 
Susan Lee
Senator

X 
Roger Manno
Senator

X 
Jamie Raskin
Senator