

November 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
Minority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee of  
Financial Services & General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee of  
Financial Services & General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy, and Representatives Hoyer, Scalise, Lowey, Granger, Quigley, Graves, McCollum, and Joyce:

The undersigned organizations support passage of the Long Bridge Act (H.R. 7489) this year. Specifically, H.R. 7489 will authorize the transfer of National Park Service (NPS) lands necessary for the construction of the Long Bridge project. We also support efforts in Congress to include the necessary language in the FY2021 Interior and Financial Services appropriations bills in order to move this project forward. We thank you for your effort and energy to work collaboratively with the delegations in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland to ensure Long Bridge's construction is completed on time.

Nearly 50 percent of the Capital Region's commuters wake up in one jurisdiction and go to work in another, and 20 percent cross a state border. Our region's residents demand easy and safe multimodal connections that tie our region together. However, due to key infrastructure bottlenecks our region's rail network is not integrated allowing for one-seat connections for residents to cross between Virginia and Maryland, and back again.

Virginia announced a \$3.7 Billion rail investment in December 2019, including \$2 billion to build the new Long Bridge. Long Bridge is not just a bottleneck for the region, but also the nation's rail system,

comprising a two-track freight and passenger rail crossing constructed in 1904 over the Potomac River connecting the District of Columbia to Virginia, and points to the Southeast and Midwest. The bridge is at capacity during peak period today, and it must be expanded in order to meet the estimated 150 percent growth in passenger and freight service over the next 20 years from 76 trains a day today to more than 190 trains a day. Congressional support is critical in moving this project forward.

We are enthusiastic to see strong bi-partisan support from Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland for this project, as well as passenger and freight rail advocates and stakeholders from our region's transportation leaders, as well as the business, bicycle, smart growth, labor and environmentalist communities. In short, we cannot have the future integrated rail system our region demands without completion of this mega-project.

Therefore, we support all efforts this Congress takes to enable delivery of this critical infrastructure investment.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Baltimore Penn Station  
MARC Riders Group

Stephen Courtien, President  
Baltimore-DC Metro Building and Construction  
Trades Council

Herbert Harris, Jr., Chairman/State  
Representative – DC  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers &  
Trainmen/Rail Conference - IBT

Coalition for Smarter Growth

Jeff Marootian, Director, District  
Department of Transportation

Federal City Council

Greater Washington Partnership

Greater Washington Board of Trade

Lawrence Kasecamp, Director - Maryland  
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air,  
Rail & Transportation Workers – Transportation  
Division

JBG Smith

Maryland General Assembly Transit Caucus

Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Virginia Diamond, President  
Northern Virginia Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

Rail Passengers Association

Larry Willis, President  
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Doris Crouse-Mays, President  
Virginia, AFL-CIO

Virginians for High Speed Rail

Rich Dalton, CEO  
Virginia Railway Express

Virginia Transit Association

Washington Area Bicyclist Association

cc: Representative Robert Wittman, U.S. Congressman  
Representative Don Beyer  
Senator Mark Warner, U.S. Senate  
Senator Tim Kaine, U.S. Senate  
Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Senate  
Senator Chris VanHollen, U.S. Senate  
Representative Marcy Kaptur  
Representative Rosa DeLauro  
Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Representative Eleanor Norton-Holmes, U.S. Congresswoman  
Representative Andy Harris  
Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Representative John P. Sarbanes  
Representative Steve Scalise  
Representative Anthony Brown  
Representative David Trone  
Representative Kweisi Mfume  
Representative Jamie Raskin  
Representative Elaine Luria  
Representative Robert C. Scott  
Representative Donald McEachin  
Representative Denver Riggleman  
Representative Ben Cline  
Representative Abigail Spanberger  
Representative Morgan Griffith  
Representative Jennifer Wexton  
Representative Gerald E. Connolly  
Secretary Shannon Valentine, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Secretary Greg Slater, Maryland Department of Transportation