

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