



# Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

910 Clopper Road, Suite 205N, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878 (301) 840-1400, Fax (301) 963-3918

## **HB1236 – Transit - Maryland Area Regional Commuter Train - Expansion of Service March 5, 2020**

### **SUPPORT**

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce represents 430 businesses along the I-270 Corridor in Montgomery County. We recently celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of working with our members to build a strong local economy.

In order for our community to thrive we need an effective transportation infrastructure. At present, I-270 is failing. We know there is no silver bullet. What we need is an “all of the above” approach. Expansion of the MARC rail system has been one of our top legislative priorities for years. House Bill 1236 is a great start.

“Requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to engage in good faith negotiations with certain jurisdictions and train companies to reach a written agreement on a pilot program to establish Maryland Area Regional Commuter train service between Union Station in the District of Columbia and Alexandria Station in the Commonwealth of Virginia” would be a major step in expansion. Of course, we would like to see all day service, increased cars, shorter headways, etc. In the meantime, having a one seat ride to DC would be a huge incentive for commuters to use the MARC.

The Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **Favorable Report** on House Bill 1236.

CONTACT:

**Marilyn Balcombe, Ph.D.**  
**[mbalcombe@ggchamber.org](mailto:mbalcombe@ggchamber.org)**  
**301-840-1400 x15**