

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH

Legislative District 30

Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

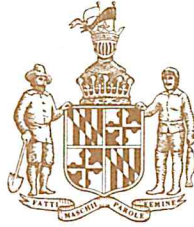
Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 12, 2019

Testimony in Favor of SB252

Chesapeake Bay Bridge Crossing – Affected Counties – Infrastructure Funding

Chairwoman Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, and members of the Finance Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 252. This bill would require that upon any appropriation for the construction of a third bay bridge span, a capital grant would be issued to the two counties in which the bridge would originate in the amount of 25% of the cost of the bridge.

For decades, Anne Arundel County and Queen Anne's County have been plagued by traffic congestion due to backups caused by the Bay Bridge. While the bridge has been fruitful for commuters and vacation travel, the counties surrounding the bridge have suffered. This past summer these problems were exacerbated by the current re-decking of the bridge - with examples including Queen Anne County school buses being delayed for hours, and 30 minute commutes taking over 3 hours on the Broadneck Peninsula. Spillover traffic from Route 50 causes gridlock on roads throughout Annapolis and Peninsula residents are often hostages in their own homes on summer weekends.

This bill would help these counties better mitigate future traffic problems caused by a new span by ensuring the roads that lead to and from the Bridge are sufficiently prepared for the increase in traffic. The bill as written does not accomplish exactly what my intent is because the Maryland Transportation Authority is a "non-budgeted" state agency, however, if it is the will of the Committee to find this equity funding, I will work to get an amendment drafted.

It is my hope that this bill will begin an important conversation over the next decade as we potentially move towards a third span - a conversation that is focused on making sure the surrounding infrastructure can handle the increased traffic load. I once again respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 252.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Elfreth".

Sarah Elfreth