



Forming Faithful Stewards,  
Caring for Sacred Waters

PO Box 6791  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**TESTIMONY ON SB 199**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**  
**January 20, 2021**  
**Budget and Taxation Committee**

Chairman Guy Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

**We support the Transit Safety and Investment Act (SB 199) which will provide badly needed funds for maintenance of MTA buses, light and heavy rail, and commuter buses - all while creating middle class jobs likely to be held by women and people of color.**

Baltimore has a high public transit ridership and many people rely on public transit to get to work, access health care and go to school. By increasing funding for maintenance, Maryland will be putting underserved communities first and investing critical dollars to meet their transportation needs.

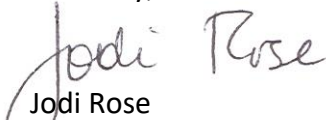
Additionally, this bill works to address climate change with cleaner public transit planning. As people of faith, we understand the moral urgency of addressing climate change to ensure all people can thrive, both today and tomorrow. We have a profound responsibility to reduce climate-impacting pollution, and one strategy for that is to strengthen our public transit system, thereby removing individual cars from the road.

The younger generation, too, is less inclined to drive individual cars or even get their own individual licenses<sup>12</sup>. In order to create a healthy environment for the next generation in which they have upward mobility opportunities, we must ensure a reliable public transit system.

**If ever there was a piece of legislation that addresses environmental concerns while also addressing inequities in access and opportunity, it is *this* bill that invests in clean transit.**

We hope you will join us in supporting SB0199.

Sincerely,

  
Jodi Rose  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> Meade, Edie, "American Teens are Driving Less...", Jan 13, 2020, [link here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Federal Highway Administration, Office of Transportation Policies, [link here](#).