

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB0485-Public-Private Partnerships-Process and Oversight
Position: Favorable

Thank you members of the E&T committee for your time.

This bill is needed is needed to protect taxpayers and provide much needed oversight on large P3 capital projects. It is crucial for the state to have an EIS much earlier in the process to allow time for the state to ensure that large transportation projects comply with state and federal environmental laws. In today's state of the environment, it is incumbent upon our leadership to do everything in its power to avoid exacerbating climate issues. With the state considering the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021, it seems shortsighted to allow large projects to go through without adequate oversight. Taxpayers should not be on the hook should the project not prove to be as profitable for the private investor as expected. No compensation guarantees should be included in a P3 agreement.

I would also like to add, that for the expansion of I-495 and I-270 in particular, studies have shown that expanding road capacity does not last long as a solution for traffic congestion. It's just a loosening of the belt. What we need is more smarter mass transit options.

Jennifer Loss
4Q Gardenway Rd.
Greenbelt, Md, 20770
lossjen@gmail.com
District 22