



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0485
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS – PROCESS AND OVERSIGHT**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Solomon

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0485 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Our members are very concerned about the status of transportation projects in Maryland. It seems as though there is no real master transportation plan that connects the state and is also environmentally responsible. Projects are approved willy-nilly and there is no real oversight.

In the past several years, the idea of using public-private partnerships to manage large projects has become popular. We have no structure for handling these kinds of partnerships. Our ability to manage projects without involving P3s is very much in question and from what we have seen with the Purple Line, we don't seem to be able to manage projects WITH P3s.

We are in need of oversight – badly. This bill will authorize a review board, which would lend some much-needed structure to this process. It would also require pre-solicitation reports, so some real analysis can be done before solicitations can be provided to bidders.

The process we have now seems to result in poorly thought-out projects with huge cost overruns that are not environmentally sound. This is a good idea. The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.