



Government Relations Committee Meeting

Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Elkton, Maryland

To: Senate Finance Committee

Purpose: Support Senate Bill 541 – Maryland Transportation Authority – John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway – Toll Plazas

February 19, 2021

Dear Chairman Kelley & Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the four hundred and fifty Cecil County Chamber members who represent over fifteen thousand employees we are writing to you to express our **strong support for SB 541** which would eventually cause the I-95 Susquehanna Toll facility to be relocated to a to be determined site between Route 272 and Route 279 in Cecil County, Maryland.

In *The Ongoing Economic Impact of Highway Tolls in Cecil County* report submitted by the Sage Policy Group in March of 2015 is the following citation:

There is continuing evidence that the presence of the toll in Cecil County serves to partially separate it economically from the balance of the state. The resulting diseconomies of scale and higher transaction costs continue to manifest themselves in various ways, including the ongoing economic underperformance of Perryville and Port Deposit. Neither of these communities performs at countywide norms and perhaps more tellingly, both communities fall far short of the performance of Havre de Grace, which is just across the Susquehanna River and not economically separated from the Baltimore area by the tolls on Interstate 95.

Also, cited in this report is the negative impact on traffic from the west to the Hollywood Casinos therefore negatively impacting revenue for the state of Maryland and Cecil County.

For this and many more unstated reasons we ask you for a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 541.

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance on this proposed legislation. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Members of Cecil County Chamber Government Relations Committee

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