

January 14, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***Re: Support for Senate Bill 0210 – Tax Credits – Employer-Provided Commuter Benefits - Expansion***

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 0210, which would expand what options for commuter benefits an employer is able to claim as a business tax credit.

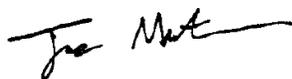
The Partnership is a civic alliance of leading employers in the Capital Region of Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond, who together employ more than 300,000 residents and are committed to making this region one of the best places to live, work, and build a business. In 2018, the Partnership released the [Blueprint for Regional Mobility](#), an action-oriented strategy to transform the Capital Region's transportation system into an asset that ensures our global competitiveness. One of the seven pillars of the Blueprint focuses on expanding employer commuter benefits, which will be enhanced by SB0210.

Commuter benefits incent employees to try alternatives to driving to work alone, which not only helps make Maryland a more competitive state for businesses, but it also improves the quality of life for all Marylanders by reducing congestion, conserving energy, and protecting the environment. Tax credits to encourage the adoption of commuter benefits can help businesses attract and retain more talent in the state. SB0210 expands what commuter benefits are eligible for tax credits by adding carpool as a form of Rideshare, active transportation, telework, and multimodal options for first and last mile benefits, providing more flexibility to employers and commuters in Maryland.

Commuting to worksites dropped to historic lows early in the pandemic and has remained well below pre-pandemic levels over the past 18-months. The pandemic's elevated remote work levels are expected to remain well after the pandemic becomes more manageable, with employees throughout the state expected to have new teleworking or flexible work schedules. This bill will support Maryland businesses who want to continue to provide flexible commuter benefits that can prevent the return of pre-COVID 19 congestion levels, making traveling around the state easier, safer, cheaper, and greener.

I hope this bill receives a favorable report because it will help expand access to commuter benefits for Maryland residents and the adoption of commuter benefits by Maryland businesses.

Sincerely,



Joe McAndrew  
Vice President for Regional Mobility & Infrastructure