



January 23, 2023

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Executive Director

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**SUPPORT: SB151 -Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act**

Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB151: Equitable and Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act, and we thank Senator Augustine for his leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV works at the intersection of strong climate policy and environmental justice. This bill supports both of those interests.

In order to confront the climate crisis and reach the emission reduction goals set forth in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, Maryland must take aggressive action in the transportation sector, which remains the single largest contributor to our state's greenhouse gas emissions. This year, the General Assembly has the opportunity to take action to address transportation pollution, including efforts to electrify cars and trucks, and incentives to citizens to move away from traditional gas-powered automobiles.

SB151 is an important component of this suite of legislation, aimed to incentivize the creation of new jobs in transit-oriented development sites, similar to the current focus on new jobs in designated opportunity zones.

SB151 directs resources to strengthen the economic opportunities around our transit hubs, encouraging Marylanders to reduce their reliance on privately owned automobiles, and in turn, reducing both traffic congestion and emissions. Importantly, it will also expand job opportunities for lower-income Marylanders who rely solely on public transit to get to work, school, medical appointments, and groceries.

Maryland LCV strongly urges a favorable report on this important bill.