

MARVIN E. HOLMES, JR.
Legislative District 23B
Prince George's County

Chair
Democratic Caucus

Environmental Matters Committee
Chair
Natural Resources Subcommittee
Housing and
Real Property Subcommittee
Land Use and Ethics Subcommittee



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SUBJECT: HB 948: Land Use – State Rail Station Overlay Districts

Dear Colleagues:

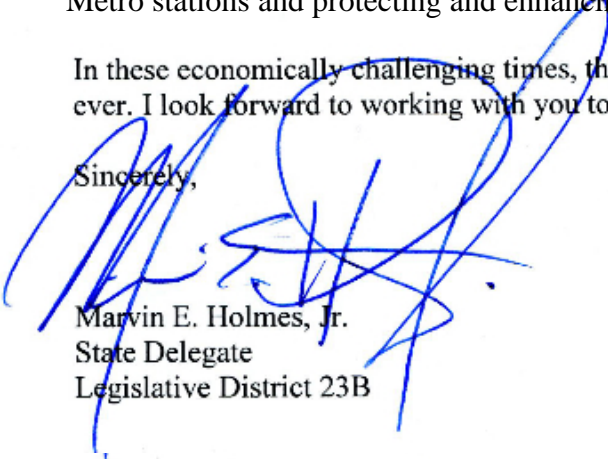
I am pleased to share with you a solution to achieving the *Smart Growth* objectives of mitigating sprawl, reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and increasing walking, public health and rail-ridership. We all know that over the past 40+ years, many billions of public dollars have been invested by the federal government and Maryland in building rail networks. We have a fiduciary responsibility to our tax-paying citizens to put this investment to good use and deliver critically needed benefits.

Unless we improve and extend the pedestrian fabric surrounding each station (i.e. sidewalk network) and create "buildable lots" for an attractive collection of buildings (remember, an elevator is a vertical rail system — it delivers pedestrians to the sidewalk with NO cars and NO buses) we will not enable enough citizens to benefit from this substantial rail investment.

When you familiarize yourself with HB 948, you will appreciate how it provides government the tools to lead, encourage, accelerate and benefit from properly developing the land around our Metro stations and protecting and enhancing our most precious natural areas.

In these economically challenging times, this kind of re-engineering is even more important than ever. I look forward to working with you to bring this to reality.

Sincerely,



Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.
State Delegate
Legislative District 23B

Attachments:

1. Executive Summary of bill and benefits
2. Letter of support from Roger K. Lewis, FAIA, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland