

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Senate President
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 873 - *Baltimore Corridor Transit Study - Red Line - Requirements and Citizens' Advisory Council*.

Senate Bill 873 would establish a Citizens' Advisory Council for the Baltimore Corridor Transit Study of the Red Line. This Council would inform the Maryland Transit Administration of the Council's views on location, funding, and benefits of the Red Line, among other items related to the Red Line's impact on the citizens of Baltimore and the surrounding areas. The Red Line is one of the State's top transportation priorities for the Baltimore Metropolitan area. My Administration has already invested \$11.4 million to advance this important project.

Senate Bill 873 is not necessary. It is redundant to my Executive Order 01.01.2006.04, which provides for a Community Advisory Council to address concerns about the future development of the Red Line in Baltimore. The Maryland Department of Transportation currently receives input from citizens affected by the Red Line, and this Community Advisory Council will supplement this feedback in order to gather the greatest amount of public participation.

The Community Advisory Council will provide advice to the Maryland Transit Administration on potential neighborhood impacts resulting from the Red Line; review economic development opportunities associated with the Red Line; and provide input to the Maryland Transit Administration as the Red Line project advances through the planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction phases.

The Community Advisory Council includes 15 members appointed by the Governor. They will represent a cross section of individuals who live, work, do business, or otherwise have an interest in the Red Line corridor, and will provide an effective forum for citizen input from project planning through implementation.

For the above stated reason, I have vetoed Senate Bill 873.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor