



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

May 12, 2009

Mr. Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Mr. Phil Andrews
Council President
Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Messrs. Leggett and Andrews:

We are writing to oppose Bill 17-09, which would allow Silver Spring parking lot district (PLD) revenues to be used to pay for bus service across the county. While we share council members' interest in finding creative ways to avoid cuts in bus service, we have serious concerns about this legislation.

We believe that:

- The use of PLD subsidies for bus lines would negatively impact the Silver Spring urban district budget, which we need for security and maintenance. The urban district receives most of its funding through the PLD, and is critical to keeping our downtown area clean and safe.
- Redistributing PLD funds could reduce funding for other worthy programs, including the VanGo buses that circulate around Silver Spring and the Transportation Management District's Fair Share Program.
- The bill could imperil funding for important PLD activities – such as improving parking in our business district and repairing our currently-condemned parking facilities.
- This bill would unfairly allow use of funds from the Silver Spring parking lot district to fund bus lines that serve entirely other areas of the county.

We value public transportation as a critical part of our infrastructure, but do not believe that this bill is the right way to fund it. For these reasons, we recommend against adoption of the bill. Thank you very much for considering our opinion.

Sincerely,

Darian Unger
Chair

Regional Services/ Redevelopment Program

8435 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 • 301/565-7300, FAX 301/565-7365

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cc:

Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Valerie Ervin
Councilmember Nancy Floreen
Councilmember Mike Knapp
Councilmember George Levant
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg