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DELEGATE WILLIAM A. BRONROTT
DELEGATE C. WILLIAM FRICK
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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
16TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

January 18, 2010

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

We are writing to express our serious concerns about proposed cuts in Ride-On service in Bethesda and Chevy Chase. With the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center slated to open next year, we believe that the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community, which is in effect the "BRAC zone," should be held harmless with respect to Ride-On bus service cuts.

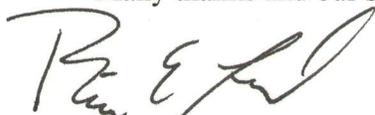
In light of the significant increase in traffic that will result from this BRAC, Bethesda-Chevy Chase residents need more, not less, Ride-On connections so that they can leave their cars at home and have reliable neighborhood bus connections to Metrorail stations along the Route 355 corridor (Friendship Heights to White Flint) and to Metrobus stops along major arterials that carry commuters to employment centers throughout our region.

We know there is more that NIH, Walter Reed Military Medical Center, and other major employers in the greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase area should do to get many more of their employees out of single occupant vehicles and onto transit. We also are convinced that any serious effort to reduce current traffic congestion and future BRAC-related gridlock on Wisconsin Avenue, Cedar Lane, Old Georgetown Road, Jones Bridge Road, and Connecticut Avenue, requires a major effort to move far more Bethesda-Chevy Chase residents onto Metro's rail and bus system. Without a strong network of Ride-On buses to make these critical connections, however, residents will likely take the path of least resistance: hopping in their cars and driving to their destinations.

Preserving Ride-On bus service in this heavily impacted and congested part of our county is essential to meeting the goals of our county's BRAC implementation plan. It is also part of the cornerstone of our collective commitment to meeting our enormous environmental, energy and economic challenges.

We respectfully urge you to take off the table the proposed Ride-On bus service cuts in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase community as you move forward with your budget deliberations.

Many thanks and our sincere best wishes,


Senator Brian Frosh


Delegate Bill Bronrott


Delegate Bill Frick


Delegate Susan Lee

cc: Councilmember Nancy Floreen, President
Councilmember Valerie Ervin, Vice President
Councilmember Roger Berliner
Councilmember Phil Andrews
Councilmember Marc Elrich
Councilmember Mike Knapp
Councilmember George Leventhal
Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg
Art Holmes, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Carolyn Biggins, Chief, Division of Transit Services
Melanie Wenger, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Montgomery County Government
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Ken Reichard, Office of Senator Ben Cardin
Jahantab Siddiqui, Office of Senator Barbara Mikulski
Joan Kleinman, Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen