

July 10, 2020

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests, & Public Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young
Ranking
Subcommittee on National Parks,
Forests, & Public Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for passage of the Long Bridge Act (H.R. 7489) to enable construction of the Long Bridge

Dear Representatives Grijalva, Haaland, Bishop, and Young:

The undersigned organizations support passage of the Long Bridge Act (H.R. 7489) this year. We thank you for your effort and energy to work collaboratively with the delegations in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland to ensure Long Bridge's construction is completed on time.

Nearly 50 percent of the Capital Region's commuters wake up in one jurisdiction and go to work in another, and 20 percent cross a state border. Our region's residents demand easy and safe multimodal connections that tie our region together. However, due to key infrastructure bottlenecks our region's rail network is not integrated allowing for one-seat connections for residents to cross between Virginia and Maryland, and back again. Long Bridge is not just a key bottleneck for the region, but also the nation's rail system, comprising a two-track freight and passenger rail crossing constructed in 1904 over the Potomac River connecting the District of Columbia to Virginia. The bridge is at capacity during peak period today, and it must be expanded in order to meet the estimated 150 percent growth in passenger and freight service over the next 20 years from 76 trains a day today to more than 190 trains a day.

We are enthusiastic to see strong bi-partisan support from Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland for this project, as well as passenger and freight rail advocates and stakeholders, business, bicycle, smart growth, and environmentalists. In short, we cannot have the future integrated rail system our region demands without completion of this mega-project.

Therefore, we support Congressman Wittman's Long Bridge Act (H.R. 7489), and other efforts this Congress to enable delivery of this critical infrastructure investment. Specifically, H.R. 7489 will authorize the transfer of National Park Service (NPS) lands necessary for the construction of the Long Bridge project.

H.R. 7489 marks a critical first step for this project. Thank you for your leadership. We are here to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Baltimore-DC Metro Building and
Construction Trades Council
Baltimore Penn Station MARC Riders
Group
ChamberRVA
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Empire State Passengers Association
Federal City Council
Greater Washington Partnership
Greater Washington Board of Trade
International Association of Sheet Metal,
Air, Rail & Transportation Workers –
Transportation Division

JBG Smith
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce
Rail Passenger Association
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southeast High Speed Rail Association
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-
CIO
Virginians for High Speed Rail
Virginia Transit Association

cc: Secretary Shannon Valentine, Virginia Department of Transportation
Representative Robert Wittman, U.S. Congressman
Senator Mark Warner, U.S. Senate
Senator Tim Kaine, U.S. Senate
Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Senate
Senator Chris VanHollen, U.S. Senate
Representative Steny Hoyer
Representative Eleanor Norton-Holmes, U.S. Congresswoman
Representative Andy Harris
Representative C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Representative John P. Sarbanes
Representative Anthony Brown
Representative David Tro
Representative Jamie Raskin
Representative Elaine Luria
Representative Robert C. Scott
Representative Donald McEachin
Representative Denver Riggleman
Representative Ben Cline
Representative Abigail Spanberger
Representative Don Beyer
Representative Morgan Griffith
Representative Jennifer Wexton
Representative Gerald E. Connolly