



**Testimony by Citizens Against Beltway Expansion (CABE)  
Regarding House Bill 663, Public-Private Partnership Projects - Real  
Property Acquisition - Prohibition  
Before the  
House of Delegates' Environment & Transportation Committee**

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David Hondowicz, Government Relations Chair  
P.O. Box 3593, Silver Spring, MD 20918  
[495CABE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:495CABE@GMAIL.COM)**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment & Transportation Committee, thank you for this opportunity to share the support of Citizens Against Beltway Expansion for House Bill 663. We appreciate the leadership Delegate Love and her co-sponsors are taking by introducing this essential legislation.

HB 663 holds the Governor and M-DOT, without equivocation, accountable for multiple, campaign promises not to take homes for the Governor's \$11 billion scheme to widen the Maryland section of I-495 and I-270 for oppressively expensive toll lanes. These promises were taken in good faith by many Montgomery County voters during the 2018 election.

Unfortunately, since the election the Administration has refused to assure residents along both interstates that they will not lose their homes because of this project. Although the Administration says it is "confident" that no residential property takings are needed, it won't put its confidence in writing.

This raises questions about the other promises the Governor and M-DOT are making about this massive project -- like not costing taxpayers any money and reducing congestion. HB 663 addresses this situation by providing much needed clarity and fairness to owners and renters along both interstates. True innovation requires the State to effectively address congestion on the Beltway and I-270, which means no taking of anyone's home.

In conclusion, HB 663, along with HB91, HB102/SB 442, HB 695/SB 788 and HB 1091 provides common sense protections to a project without any sense.

CABE thanks the Committee for its serious consideration to this issue and urges a favorable report on HB 663