

Testimony in Favor of HB 67  
Submitted by Janet Gallant on Behalf of DontWiden270.org

I'm Janet Gallant, one of the coordinators of DontWiden270.org. We are part of a coalition of over 50 organizations that oppose the I-495/I-270 P3 project. We strongly support HB 67, the MDOT Promises Act.

The toll-lane project is an ongoing story of false promises made to officials and the public. When the Governor first announced the project, he told us (and these are exact quotes): "It won't cost us tax dollars." "P3s dramatically decrease the cost to taxpayers..." "Only the new lanes would have tolls...the others would remain free." And, "We don't need any legislation...we'll have to go through difficult federal environmental approvals..."<sup>1</sup>

The Hogan administration broke every one of those promises, and many more.

- MDOT's own documents show that hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars will go to subsidize the private contractor.
- MDOT's preferred alternative turns two existing free lanes – paid for by taxpayers – into toll-lanes that profit the private contractor.
- The State is doing an end-run around the federal environmental review process. MDOT will seek approval for a **50-year agreement** with the private contractor before the environmental review for Phase 1 South is finished, and before the environmental review for Phase 1 North is even scheduled.

At the MDOT Roadshow in October, Chair Barve wisely reminded Secretary Slater, "Our primary responsibility is to find solutions that work for the taxpayers of Maryland."

We ask you now to favorably report HB 67 as soon as possible. The bill is absolutely necessary. It will hold the Hogan administration accountable for its promises. It will also ensure that, at least to some extent, this project works less for the benefit of private contractors, and more for the benefit of the public.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> [Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan proposes widening the Beltway and I-270 to include 4 toll lanes](#) (Sept. 21, 2017).