



WMATA Board of Directors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

March 15, 2021

RE: Opening Silver Line Phase 2

Dear Members of the WMATA Board of Directors:

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA), we write regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget. We understand the impact of the revenue that WMATA has lost due to declining ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic. But we believe that it is absolutely critical to the region that Phase 2 of the Silver Line open as soon as it is mechanically able to do so.

As the region is in the midst of economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic, it's important to emphasize that the survival of Metro services is dependent on rail ridership. Therefore, it is imperative that Silver Line Phase Two open as soon as possible with service to all stations. While it is understood that there are mechanical issues that may delay opening this summer, no delays should occur due to perceived financial constraints.

Tysons is the fastest growing area in the region and boasts limitless economic potential. Fairfax and Loudoun Counties have approved several mixed-use developments that will have a built-in ridership and customer base along the Silver Line in Tysons, Reston, Herndon, and Ashburn. Getting Phase 2 up and running as soon as possible is essential to the success of these developments in attracting new residents to these areas. Northern Virginia's residential builders know just how important Phase 2 is to the growth and development of our region, and we urge you to prioritize this critical project as it nears its completion.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments on the budget. Thank you for your work on behalf of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Ingraio, CCP, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

Steven Marku
Director of Government Affairs