LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
H–101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H–107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Speaker Jones and President Ferguson:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 125 and Senate Bill 148 - Board of Public Works - Land Acquisition - Requirements.

For more than 150 years, the Maryland Constitution has authorized a three member Board of Public Works to "hear and determine" matters regarding public works of the State, as well as to "exercise a diligent and faithful supervision" of all public works in which the State has an interest. The Board has held the public's long-standing trust to act in the best interest of our great State while safeguarding its fiscal integrity.

This legislation would undermine the Board's constitutional authority to obtain real property by further complicating the land acquisition process with burdensome and unnecessary layers of bureaucratic red tape. Extending the land acquisition process could dissuade potential sellers and hurt the State's ability to compete, neither of which is in Maryland's best interest.

While posing as "good government" legislation, House Bill 125/Senate Bill 148 is nothing more than an unmitigated power grab against the current Board that erodes the constitutional authority of all future Boards, regardless of political makeup. This legislation will generate unintended, costly, and negative consequences for our State.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 125 and Senate Bill 148.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

STATE HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
(410) 974-3901 1-800-811-8336
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