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April 14, 2009

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor:

As a major Maryland property owner, Home Properties urges you to support the light rail option of the proposed Purple Line. There is a strong rationale for this form of transit, which has already been examined and endorsed by leading Montgomery County officials. Top media organizations, including The Washington Post and The Gazette Newspapers, have also supported light rail as the preferred choice over bus rapid transit.

Our company, Home Properties, has a particular interest in the light rail option and, specifically, the likely alignment. We own the Falkland Apartments adjacent to the Silver Spring Metro station. Montgomery County officials have recently granted Home Properties full approval to redevelop a portion of our property, the parcel closest to the Metro station. It is our intention to redevelop the property with new, larger apartments and modern amenities. The Purple Line alignment, as proposed, would directly impact that parcel, trimming off land and apartments for the elevated portion of the line as it reaches the Silver Spring Transit Center. Home Properties is fully behind the Purple Line as light rail. We are also fully supportive of the proposed alignment as it affects our land - and are willing to reserve land for the right-of-way in our site plan and donate it to the State at no cost after the plan is approved. We believe our offer serves the public good, without cost to the taxpayers, and enhances Silver Spring.

We share the belief of transit advocates and government leaders that the Purple Line as light rail will reduce traffic congestion, provide greater travel capacity, is friendlier to the environment, has lower operating costs and has a stronger record of promoting compact, pedestrian-oriented revitalization.

We believe in this option. We support it. And Home Properties is willing to donate land to contribute to its eventual success. We welcome your questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald Hague', written over a horizontal line.

Donald Hague
Senior Vice President, Development
Home Properties, Inc.