

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2019

Mr. John E. Potter
President and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
1 Aviation Circle
Washington, DC 20001-6000

Dear Mr. Potter:

I write today to inform you that your agency is this month's recipient of my Golden Fleece Award. I am awarding this to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) for continued delays of Silver Line Phase 2.

According to reports by *The Washington Post*, Silver Line Phase 2 is more than a year behind schedule and has had numerous construction problems, including having to rebuild an entire platform that was built with the wrong dimensions, cracked panels at a rail yard that houses train cars, flaws in concrete rails ties that could cause tracks to tilt outward, and contractors utilizing cranes that do not meet "Buy America" requirements and will have to be replaced.¹ The entire Silver Line project is expected to cost more than \$5.6 billion, and we must be good stewards of our taxpayers' dollars.

Our nation is currently over \$22 trillion in debt, and it is important now more than ever that we carefully scrutinize our government programs to ensure that we are only funding essential programs and projects while eliminating frivolous and wasteful spending – and ensuring we have in place necessary accountability mechanisms. MWAA has already received \$900 million for Silver Line Phase 1 from the U.S. Department of Transportation, in addition to nearly \$2 billion in federal loans for Silver Line Phase 2.²

Should you require any additional authority from Congress to address these concerns, I urge you to notify us as soon as possible. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,



French Hill
Member of Congress

¹ Aratani, Lori. "Concrete problems continue to plague Silver Line's second phase." *The Washington Post*, December 19, 2018.

² Aratani, Lori. "New problems for the Silver Line Phase 2: Officials say rail ties are flawed." *The Washington Post*, December 12, 2018.