



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Regional business leaders creating a better tomorrow...today.

GBC in the News: January 2020 - February 2020

2020 GBC Media Highlights

The Greater Baltimore Committee frequently receives requests from local and national media outlets to provide insight, comment or perspective on a pressing topic or issue. Reporters, editors and producers solicit our input because the GBC provides the unique private sector angle and enjoys a reputation for providing informed and well thought out perspectives on important issues facing our state, region and city.

Additionally, as part of the effort to be an influential voice in the region, I also publish regular commentaries in the Baltimore Business Journal and The Daily Record, on WBAL News Radio 1090 and in other media outlets.

To ensure that you and other members are kept informed of the GBC's presence in the media, we are pleased to provide you with this edition of **GBC In The News**.

As always, I welcome your feedback and questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Fry", written in a cursive style.

Donald C. Fry
President & CEO

January 2020

Don Fry Commentary

Jan. 6 Baltimore Sun: Maryland transportation planning needs to include Baltimore

When state lawmakers convene in Annapolis for this year's General Assembly session, transportation needs will be among many of the major topics up for debate. What happens could affect Marylanders — and more importantly the Baltimore region — for decades. Read the [commentary](#).

Additional Media Coverage

Jan. 9 Baltimore Business Journal: 'Expect the unexpected' Maryland businesses cautious as 2020 General Assembly begins

Politicians from across Maryland flock to Annapolis every year for the annual legislative session and talk about how they will be passing laws that will affect the state for generations to come.

[Read the article.](#)

Jan. 22 Baltimore Business Journal: Sen. Brian Feldman sponsoring bill to create Maryland's tax code review panel; GBC to sit on proposed committee

A broader tax code overhaul will not happen this year, Senate President Bill Ferguson said, but needs to take place within the next couple of years. To that end, Sen. Brian Feldman said he is sponsoring a bill to create a blue ribbon panel to do a comprehensive review of Maryland's tax code and make recommendations to the governor. Feldman's bill, Senate Bill 233, would establish a 17-member "Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness." The Montgomery County Democrat said his bill is based on a similar effort that took place in Georgia.

[Read the article.](#)

Jan. 27 Baltimore Business Journal: Maryland must ensure Preakness stays in Baltimore, Senate Minority Leader says

Making sure the Preakness Stakes stays in Baltimore must be one of the top goals for the General Assembly this year, Sen. J.B. Jennings told a group of regional business leaders.

[Read the article.](#)

February 2020

Don Fry Commentaries

Feb. 5 Baltimore Business Journal: GBC's Fry calls on Maryland General Assembly to OK \$375M Pimlico deal

For more than 140 years, Baltimore has proudly hosted the annual Preakness Stakes, the second jewel of the esteemed Triple Crown, at the historic Pimlico Race Track.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Feb. 18 WBAL NewsRadio: A Winning Bet for Maryland Horse Racing

Last year the future of the Preakness Stakes running in Baltimore was grim as legislation pending in the Maryland General Assembly would have consolidated all racing activities including the running of the Preakness Stakes at Laurel Park.

[Listen to the commentary.](#)

Feb. 27 The Daily Record: Salvos over public safety in Maryland, Baltimore

In recent days, the debate in Annapolis over legislative proposals to address public safety concerns has become personal and emotional between Gov. Larry Hogan and legislative leaders.

[Read the commentary.](#)

Additional Media Coverage

Feb. 4 Baltimore Business Journal: Baltimore Convention Center expansion plans scaled back amid financial hurdles

Plans for an upgrade to the Baltimore Convention Center are headed back to the drawing board after officials discovered an expansion would cost more than \$1.5 billion to complete as envisioned.

[Read the story.](#)

Feb. 12 The Daily Record: Advocates urge Md. transit funding boost

A business advocacy group and elected leaders from counties in the Baltimore metro region voiced support for legislation boosting Maryland public transit funding by \$500 million.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb. 12 Baltimore Business Journal: Maryland businesses fight to save millions in tax credits in Annapolis

Dozens of people from industries across Maryland came to Annapolis to testify against a bill that would eliminate many of the state's tax credit and incentive programs.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb. 12 WBAL-TV: Baltimore-area leaders push for interconnected regional transit system

Transportation in central Maryland is severely underfunded and lacks a system that ties it all together, county executives argued before state lawmakers in Annapolis. The local leaders demanded more state funding to create an interconnected regional transit system.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb. 13 Maryland Matters: 'We Have to Get Things Moving': Baltimore-Area Leaders Urge Transit Boost

State spending on transportation favors roads over transit, and the Washington, D.C., area over the Baltimore region, advocates for the Baltimore area complained.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb. 13 Maryland Reporter: Local officials urge lawmakers to balance transportation spending statewide

Maryland's county leaders and city officials convened in Annapolis to urge members of the General Assembly to provide more money to balance transportation spending across the state.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb. 18 The Daily Record: Legg Mason to be bought by Franklin Resources for \$4.5B

Legg Mason, one of Baltimore's most recognizable and widely known companies, is being sold. "As is often the case in the business world, including in the banking and finance sectors, companies consolidate," said Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb. 18 The Baltimore Sun: Baltimore's Legg Mason to be acquired by California investment giant Franklin Templeton

Baltimore stands to lose one of its last few remaining large public companies headquartered in the city after a California-based mutual fund giant announced a \$4.5 billion to acquire Legg Mason. Donald C. Fry, President and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee, called the acquisition an "unfortunate" byproduct of consolidation in the banking and finance sectors.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb 19 The Daily Record: Four takeaways from David Wilson's GBC appearance

Morgan State University President David J. Wilson addressed the Greater Baltimore Committee's Newsmaker Speaker Series.

[Read the article.](#)

Feb. 20 The Baltimore Sun: Expanding state sales tax to pay for school improvements would 'destroy our economy,' Maryland Gov. Hogan says

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan vowed to oppose a proposed change in the sales tax that would reduce the rate but expand who pays it by charging it on an array of services from

landscaping to lawyers.
[Read the article.](#)

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