



Testimony offered on behalf of:  
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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IN SUPPORT OF:  
SB 982 – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution

Budget and Taxation Committee  
March 4, 2020

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our support for **SB 982 which increases the amount of Highway User Revenues distributed to counties and municipalities.**

Counties and municipalities in rural areas have sustained significant impacts from the reduction of Highway User fees under the O'Malley Administration. For the Town of Loch Lynn Heights in Garrett County, this meant going from \$100,000 in highway user revenues to \$0. In 2014, a very small portion was reallocated to the municipalities. For Loch Lynn, that redistribution totaled less than \$4,000.

Residents of rural areas tend to spend more on motor vehicle gas due to greater driving distances and Garrett County has an abundance of roadway. According to MACo, the cumulative loss of local roadway investment has topped \$2 billion – compromising roadway safety and betraying taxpayer expectations. This dire situation needs to be addressed immediately by restoring the distribution of Highway User Revenues to our counties and municipalities.

**The Chamber respectfully requests your support of critical transportation funding for counties and municipalities by giving SB 982 a FAVORABLE report.**

Sincerely,

*Nicole Christian, IOM, CCE*

President & CEO

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