



Town of Thurmont

P. O. Box 17, 615 East Main Street

Thurmont, Maryland 21788

From the desk of
Mayor John A. Kinnaird

301-606-9458

February 19, 2020

Dear Chair Barve and Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Thank you for considering HB 486, Corporal William Kyle Ferrell Emergency Vehicle Safety Act. This bill would allow for emergency personnel: a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, law enforcement officer, rescue squad, fire police squad and the U.S. Armed Forces who is trained in emergency response to be equipped with red or white lights or signal devices for use only while at the scene of an accident or other emergency.

Communities all other Maryland train emergency personnel and of course, these folks are also our neighbors. These individuals are trained for emergency responses and it is inconsistent with their nature that these trained individuals would not also be the first to help their neighbors when an emergency might occur. There is no "off duty" sign that they hang when they come upon an accident or a person requiring assistance. This bill really hits home for me, my son Christopher serves as the Chief of Thurmont Fire Company 10, the Guardian Hose Company. He and many of his age are dedicate volunteers for our community and I want to make sure that each and every one of our volunteers has all the tools necessary to insure their safety and the safety of those they are assisting.

It only stands to reason that we would want to enable these individuals with the equipment that they know how to use in order to keep them safe.... Especially, when you know they are not going to turn a blind eye.

Such was the case when a young Marine Corp., who was also a volunteer rescue and fire fighter, when he came upon a stranded motorist in 2015. Tragically, he was killed by a hit and run driver who may or may not have seen him getting out of his car on the side of the road. We dedicated a bridge in Thurmont honoring his life of service but this bill would further way to honor him by protecting those we rely on aiding us.

Thank you and I would appreciate a favorable report from your committee.

Sincerely,

Mayor John A. Kinnaird

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