

**Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
SB 220 – Gas Price Gouging Act
Position: Favorable**

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

Honorable Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

I'm a consumer advocate and Executive Director of Consumer Auto, a group that brings together consumer-friendly auto dealers and consumer advocates to work for safety, transparency, and fair treatment for Maryland drivers and car buyers.

Consumer Auto supports **SB 220** because it will make posted gas prices more transparent and fair to consumers. Since most consumers purchase gas on credit, allowing dealerships to post only the lowest price for their gas – which very often is a cash price that is significantly lower than the credit price most customers will actually pay – gives consumers incomplete and sometimes misleading information about the actual price they are likely to pay.

Requiring dealers to prominently post either both the cash and credit price or the highest price of their gas will prevent customers from getting a nasty and costly surprise at the pump.

The cost of gas is a quite significant budget item for many of us – costing many families more than \$2,000/year. This reform will give consumers fuller and fairer information to help manage the cost.

We ask you to give **SB 220** a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

Franz Schneiderman
Consumer Auto