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March 3, 2022

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 701 Vehicle Laws - Window Tinting Materials - Private Detectives

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

My name is Paul Bressler. I am a resident of Havre de Grace in Harford County, Maryland. I have been a licensed private investigator since 1991. I am the owner of Castle Security Group, a detective agency in Baltimore County, which employs ten people. The bulk of my clients are law firms in downtown Baltimore.

Surveillance is an important part of my business, particularly in personal injury fraud cases. Things changed after 9/11 and the D.C. Sniper Attacks. We are now in the era of "See Something, Say Something." Surveillance vans draw attention. More so in residential areas where there may be schools and daycare providers nearby. There are things my company does in anticipation of this. We notify regional police departments when we will be in the area. My agents are instructed to identify themselves to the public if they are approached.

There is a segment of the public who do not approach strangers. They simply call the police, who then have to respond. This is a waste of police manpower, taxpayer money and may result in officers not being where they could be desperately needed. In my line of work, blending into a neighborhood is invaluable. A common vehicle, such as a Honda Accord or a Toyota Corolla, with darkly-tinted windows, is an everyday sight. This would allow me to do my job, while reducing unnecessary calls to police.

I urge you to give a Favorable Report to SB 701.

Sincerely,

Paul Bressler
Director of Investigations
Castle Security Group
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