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**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 4910  
Diamond Bar, Calif 91765-0910

**Shipping Address:**  
1575 S. Valley Vista Dr.  
Diamond Bar, Calif. 91765-3914

**Telephone:** 909-610-2030

E-mail: [sema@sema.org](mailto:sema@sema.org)  
Website: [www.sema.org](http://www.sema.org)

February 7, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SEMA Support for HB 304

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), I am writing to express support for House Bill (HB) 304 (Lehman), which reform's the state's motor vehicle noise laws to create a fair, objective standard of measure for all motorists while increasing penalties for those who willfully violate the law. SEMA thanks Del. Lehman for her willingness to work with us and other stakeholders on this matter.

Under current Maryland law, an individual may not modify a vehicle's exhaust system in such a manner that it causes the vehicle to emit more noise than when it was originally manufactured. This law is problematic for two reasons: 1. It creates hundreds of exhaust noise standards on which police must enforce as there are hundreds of makes and models on the road today, each emitting a different range of sound. 2. The law does not prescribe an objective method for measuring vehicle exhaust noise. In other words, it is at the sole discretion of law enforcement to determine if a vehicle is too loud. This is a subjective standard and is unfair to all parties involved.

If enacted, HB 304 would set one standard for all motor vehicles that mirrors California's (95-decibels) and provide grant money to local law enforcement to purchase the necessary technology to determine if a vehicle complies with the law. In addition to increased penalties, the bill would also give police the authority to issue repair orders, ensuring that excessively loud vehicles are ultimately brought into compliance.

If you have any questions, or require additional information please feel free to contact me by phone at (202) 794-8279 or by e-mail at [christianr@sema.org](mailto:christianr@sema.org).

Sincerely,

Christian Robinson  
Senior Director, State Government Affairs & Grassroots  
Specialty Equipment Market Association

*Proud of dedicated service to the industry since 1963*