



TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable Senate President Bill Ferguson (Administration)

FROM: J. Steven Wise

DATE: February 22, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 479 – *Motor Vehicles – Work Zone Speed Control Systems – Revisions*
(*Maryland Road Worker Protection Act of 2024*)

The Maryland Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (MDAGC) provides professional education, business development, and advocacy for commercial construction and highway companies and vendors, regardless of labor policy. AGC of America is the nation’s largest and oldest trade association for the construction industry. MDAGC **supports** Senate Bill 479.

Senate Bill 479 seeks to significantly enhance the effectiveness of existing safety regulations. With the institution of additional safeguards, Senate Bill 479 will enable the workers of MDAGC membership, and all contractors performing work on Maryland highways, to be shielded from the grave risks posed by irresponsible drivers who ignore the legal speed limit in work zones. Your Support is crucial to the safety and well-being of highway workers and preventing future tragedies. Furthermore, MDAGC believes that Senate Bill 479 will reduce risks by increasing fines, removing outdated restrictions limiting enforcement in work zones, and allowing more flexibility in the installation and monitoring of speed cameras. These restrictions include the requirement to have an operator present and eliminate the prohibition of citations issued during a 30-day “warning period”, following the initial installation of a work zone camera.

It is worth noting that in 2023 alone, Maryland saw over 1,105 work zone crashes, averaging around 3.5 crashes per day. Additionally, nearly half of all road crew workers surveyed by the AGC have experienced a work zone crash while they have been working, most having experienced more than one such incident. In response to these statistics, Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller put together a Work Zone Safety Work Group after conducting surveys of Maryland residents to gather public feedback on ways to improve the safety of both highway workers and commuters. The results found that 65% of those surveyed would be more likely to slow down if fines increased, and 67% were in favor of installing more than one camera to ticket speed violators in work zones.

Workers, and the lives of all Maryland residents who travel Maryland highways are at stake, along with their families’ well-being. For a more comprehensive look at MDAGC membership experiences, please refer to the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYBOn089bjU>.

A favorable report is requested.

For more information:

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